

Special Anniversary Issue

Original Goals

1. To serve as a nonprofit enterprise.
2. To remain nonpartisan in politics.
3. To remain neutral in religious matters.
4. To print news accurately and regularly.

Greenbelt

News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 51, Number 1

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thurs., Nov. 26, 1987

Original Goals

5. To make its pages an open forum for civic affairs.
 6. To develop a staff of volunteer writers.
 7. To create a "Good Neighbor" spirit, promote friendship, advance the common good, and develop a "Greenbelt philosophy" of life.
- November 24, 1937

50 Years of Continuous Publication

A SAMPLING FROM THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Introducing Ourselves

Beginning with this issue, the *Greenbelt News Review* will acquire several hundred new readers, as distribution of the paper starts at the new University Square apartments. It is to these new readers that we address ourselves here.

We do not know whether you realized, when you chose to live here in Greenbelt, that there was something special about this town. Oh, don't ask us to define it — it's a mutual identity, a cooperative spirit, an elusive elan, and it floats around, adding zing to council meetings, creating and sustaining countless projects and associations (as well as those tempests-in-a-teapot for which Greenbelt is known) giving us all the feeling of sharing the life of a community, to which we belong.

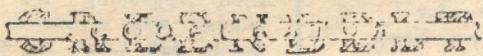
Whether you bargained for all this when you came, or were merely weighing commuting times against rents and access to schools, we welcome you now as new residents of our town. Perhaps you have already discovered our tranquil lake with its parkland setting, and other features unique to this city. We now invite you to discover something no less characteristic — The *Greenbelt News Review*.

For the past 30 years, our paper has been reporting facts and events and serving as both sounding board and bulletin board to the Greenbelt community. Run by a crew of volunteers, it is proud of not having missed an issue. It will be your weekly guide to the community and to what is happening in it.

Here is your first copy. Enjoy it. (October 26, 1967)

(This editorial appeared October 26, 1967 welcoming the new residents of University Square apartments. Many other new residents have joined our community during the past 20 years, most in the eastern portion: Greenbriar, Glen Oaks, Windsor Green, Glen Ora, Hunting Ridge, Greenwood Village, and now Greenbrook and, in the core of the city, Northridge and Farm Gate.

The editorial seems as current now as it was in 1967. We have only one thought to add: the *News Review* is always looking for more volunteers!)



Greenbelt's Own Newspaper Greenbelt, Maryland Published by its Citizens

Vol. 51, No. 1 Published Every Wednesday November 24, 1987

NEW GROCERY STORE
TO OPEN SOON

Co-Op Gas Station Starts
Operations

Opening date of the new store has, for several weeks, been the subject of the most popular conversation piece in Greenbelt, and it is felt that at this time some word of its progress will be welcome.

While Consumer Services is ready to open the store, there will be some delay until the produce are ready for occupation. Electricity and refrigeration have not yet been provided for, and as several miles have yet to be drilled through the eight inches of concrete floor, and plumbing lines have to be run through the building, it is unlikely that the store will be ready for several days.

This announcement was made with deep regret by Mr. A. W. Trappman, store manager, who had hoped for an earlier opening date.

The filling station, by way of compensation, has now been operating for several days. This will also be run according to the cooperative principle, meaning that the Greenbelt car owner may now buy gas as well as groceries cooperatively.

(Continued on Page Two)

JOURNALISTIC CLUB BEGINS
WORK ON NEWSPAPER

Consumer Services Aide
Greenbelt Weekly

The Greenbelt Journalistic Club held its first meeting Thursday evening, November 11, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayes, 35 G Ridge Road.

More than fifteen persons participated in a general discussion on the best methods now available for the distribution of authentic news and announcements in Greenbelt.

Several attending the meeting summarized their personal experience in publicity and newspaper work and volunteered their services as reporters.

Tentatively, a plan was suggested to issue six numbers of the *Cooperator*, a weekly journal, covering matters of local community interest.

The principle generally adopted by club members is that any bulletin or newspaper in the community shall be non-partisan in politics, and cooperatively designed.

As its first venture the club will sponsor the Greenbelt *Cooperator* with the assistance of Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc.

The club elected the following officers: Louis Beasler, president; William R. Felle, vice president;

(Continued on Page Seven)

Staff Runs a Full-Scale Business New Volunteers are Always Needed

by Sandra Barnes

The *News Review* masthead lists over 50 persons who comprise the newspaper staff. There are four basic types of jobs on the *News Review*—writing and editing, advertising or business, production and circulation. Many staffers perform a multiplicity of jobs. Most stories are written by staff reporters or contributors from the community, or they reach the desk of the *News Review* when a business or institution issues a press release.

All written content is edited for substance, style and grammar—with an alertness to screen out anything that might be libelous or in questionable taste. Letters to the editor sometimes must be cut for space or other reasons; and most press releases require a rewrite to get them down to their essentials. Finally, an appropriate headline of just the right length must be written for each article.

The business side of the *News Review* involves the acceptance and solicitation of advertising, collection of debts, payment of bills, and maintenance of extensive records on business transactions and personnel. The amount of advertising on any given week usually determines the size of the paper. Although some readers may recall when the *News Review* had only two pages, the standard size today is 12 and may be as large as 24 pages.

The production of the newspaper involves the physical layout of ads and stories on a page (called "make up"); proofreading from long strips of newsprint (called "galleys") for spelling, punctuation and other errors; and the actual typesetting, page composition and presses by the print shop.

The circulation covers the delivery of each paper to the homes of Greenbelt residents by a cadre of young persons as well as by homeowner associations. Bundles of papers also go to the shopping malls and some large office buildings. Weekly circulation is now 9800 copies and with the development of Greenbelt will go over 10,000.

Board of Directors

The *News Review* is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected each fall. A membership meeting for all the staff is held in a member's home. Board members are elected by the members for one-year terms; however, some people have served for many years. The board, which is the policy-making arm, is also responsible for creating and approving editorials conveying the paper's opinions on matters of concern to the

city.

The present board consists of president Bill Rowland, vice-president Mavis Fletcher, secretary Virginia Beauchamp, treasurer Diane Oberg and Barbara Likowski. The editor, Mary Lou Williamson, is an ex-officio member of the Board, as are Elaine Skolnik, president emerita, and Mary Halford, business manager.

Rowland has been a member of the *News Review* staff for seven years. A retired government employee, he initially covered city council meetings for three years. He then gave up reporting and now confines his activities primarily to coordinating board activities and to the Tuesday-night copy-editing shift. During this time most of the copy is read by the editors, headlines are written, and decisions are ironed out on controversial letters-to-the-editor, or on editorials. Bill also is the "fix it" person. Mechanical ability is not a prerequisite for the president, but being able to fix a collapsing chair or table at a critical moment does help morale. Bill assumed the presidency in 1986 when Elaine Skolnik stepped down.

Mavis Fletcher also joined the staff after a career in government. She has been with the paper six and a half years. As

Anniversary Edition

This special edition of the *News Review* is a retrospective of 50 years of publication. Since November 1937 the *News Review* has produced anniversary editions every five years, copies of which are still available at the office.

Staff members Sandra Barnes, Virginia Beauchamp, Janet James, Dorothy Lauber, Barbara Likowski, Vic Nicholson, Diane Oberg, Pat Scully, Gail Shaw and Mary Lou Williamson prepared this issue.

Elaine Skolnik, Mavis Fletcher, Pat Reynolds and Kathy Gough obtained the advertising.

a writer, Mavis regularly covers the Thursday night board meetings of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and occasionally covers city council hearings and public meetings. A special interest has been crime in Greenbelt and she frequently covers the "police beat," having assembled the popular "Police Blotter" for her first five years on the paper.

Virginia Beauchamp is a former *News Review* editor who exchanged that job with Dorothy Sucher when Virginia moved away for a two-year hitch in Africa. With the paper for 30 years, Virginia digs into her memory bank to retrieve details on past events. She writes occasional news stories and editorials, but concentrates on editing. An associate professor of English at the University of Maryland and a published author, Virginia is the staff's last word on points of grammar.

Diane Oberg, a statistician with the Census Bureau, has been with the paper seven years. She works Tuesday nights, makes up the paper on Wednesdays at least once a month, regularly covers city council meetings and writes on other subjects. Having started at the advertising desk, she is the versatile "troubleshooter" on the

See WHO'S WHO pg. 10

We Celebrate Our 50th Anniversary

With this special issue, the *News Review* celebrates 50 years of continuous publication as a volunteer newspaper. The staff for this issue has culled the pages of 50 years of stories to bring the reader what we consider to be the best of what we have printed. Therefore, contained in these 28 pages are the editorials of which we are most proud; features on our staff and other interesting people; letters to the editor that stirred a storm of controversy, sounded a recurrent theme or appeared to us to be too humorous to omit.

But mostly this issue is about us—our goofs, our successes, our constant attempts to increase our staff, change our name, raise funds to keep us afloat. In the end, it has not been the basic news story which is our staple that we have selected to remember this issue—but rather those universal themes that have withstood the test of time—that seem as true and humorous today as the day on which they first appeared in print.

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

This is how the first page of the first issue of the *Greenbelt Cooperator* looked. The first issue appeared on November 24, 1937 and consisted of 16 letter-sized mimeographed pages of local news and editorial content.

GREENBELT

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published Every Thursday, by The Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc., 9 Parkway, Greenbelt, Maryland

Vol. 19, No. 4

Greenbelt, Maryland, Thursday, September 2, 1954

10 Cents

Greenbelt's newspaper was published without a name from July 29, to September 16, 1954 while the staff and community wrestled with choosing a new name.

On Changing Our Name

by Harry M. Zubkoff

The publication of this issue marks an important change in the history of this newspaper—and in the history of this community. For some sixteen years the "Cooperator" has been an institution in Greenbelt, not only on the scene but a vital part of the scene. Every organization in town, every church, every group, every club, every history of this newspaper—and in the history of this community, regularly scheduled activity, has, at one time or another had something to do with this paper, if not in direct participation, then by reading accounts of its doings in our pages. Legions of residents and ex-residents have at one time or another served on our volunteer staff. The publication of this issue, therefore, without the "Cooperator" bannerhead, signals the end of an era.

For an interim period we will publish the paper without a name, meanwhile conducting a public opinion poll on suggestions for a new name. Eventually, we hope, we will arrive at a decision—one which will take the sentiments of our readers into account.

Naturally, there are questions as to why we wanted to change the name in the first place. The reasons are difficult to put into words. When the paper was first organized, in 1937, we assumed it sounded like the ideal name to those who originally adopted it. It may very well have been, because in the beginning the paper was closely associated with, and in fact subsidized by the co-op store. This, of course, is no longer true and has not been true for many years, but the idea still seems to persist that the paper is the house organ for the co-op. Although we repeatedly asserted our status as an independent newspaper, we believe that a change in name will be a more positive means of affirming the fact of our independence.

In addition, there are a number of "Cooperators" published throughout the country, at least one of which is circulated in Greenbelt—and this has added an element of confusion to some of our newer residents. . . . It is true, of course, that the paper is published by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc., and that, in fact, we are a cooperative organization. But this means only that we are a newspaper—which is published as a cooperative venture. . . .

The truth is, a newspaper is a public service, and we are trying to perform this service as best we can. We believe that a change in name will make it possible to render a greater service to our community by increasing our readership acceptance, and we are asking our readers for their opinions. We are counting on them to express their opinions, not only at the polls, but also in letters to the editor.

In any event, we are embarked upon an experiment which we believe will have beneficial results. We await your reaction.

—July 29, 1954

Mary Granofsky - - A Decade of Service

by Sandra Barnes

Some ten years ago a woman wandered down a short flight of stairs to the basement headquarters of the *Greenbelt News Review*. Timidly she approached the editor. She didn't like to write and she couldn't type—but she could spell. Did the *News Review* have any need of such a person?

As often happens, the editor and his assistants were busy handling one crisis involving city council and another involving GHI and another involving controversial letters-to-the-editor. It was a typical Tuesday night and no one talked much to the new person or showed her anything to do so she wandered out again.

It was six months before she returned. A call had gone out urging anyone with an interest in community service to come to the *News Review* and the woman was spurred to come back. The people were again frenzied and desperate for help—another Tuesday night. This time, however, the editor taught her how to count letters for headlines and Mary Granofsky (formerly Smith) carved her niche in the *News Review*. For the next nine years she taught everyone who came to work on the paper how to count letters for headlines.

A little over a year later Mary became assistant editor. "Every-one else was having babies," she said. By this time also she was doing the makeup on Wednesday nights and often went down to the print shop on Thursday mornings to read the page proofs.

In 1967 Mary became editor. It was a position she did not welcome but one she held for 5½ years, until the fall of 1972 when she again assumed the smaller responsibilities of the assistant editor. Mary moved to New Carrollton in 1973, one of the few ways to leave the *News Review* staff.

—Sept. 6, 1973

Fritz Schrom Will Put Greenbelt On the Air Map of the Future

From the beginning there have been differing opinions about the paper's name. However, it took almost seventeen years before the Greenbelt Cooperator was renamed the Greenbelt News Review.

May I register my disapproval of the name "Cooperator".

Although I realize that newspapers sometimes have such names, and that cooperation is the stressed ideal for Greenbelt, still I believe Cooperator is an ill-advised name for any newspaper and particularly for ours.

For there is a tendency to associate Greenbelt with regimentation and paternalism. The public thinks of its people as flooded with rules and regulations and goody-goody propaganda.

Naming our newspaper "Cooperator" augments that idea. The title sounds preachy; syrupy. . . .

As a suggestion I nominate an alternative: "The Greenbelt Town Crier".

—December 13, 1937

The Editors of the Cooperator do appreciate such suggestions as the above, but would prefer to hear from a large number of readers who may have their own ideas about what name this newspaper should bear. Now for "crying out loud" let's find out whether the name COOPERATOR suits you or not—put your suggestion on a postcard.

* * *

. . . "Town Crier", the name offered to replace the one now used seems to me to belong to an era that is dead and buried. "Town Crier" conjures up in my mind pictures of powdered wigs and knee-breeches—outmoded symbols of an outmoded age.

Greenbelt has been pronounced the town of the future. Certainly it is the last word in modernity. Somehow electric ranges, casement windows, and underpasses do not mix with the term "Town Crier".

"Cooperator" is a very proper name for our newspaper since the term describes that feature which is most unique and significant in Greenbelt—the Cooperatives. . . .

—December 20, 1937

* * *

May I, too, register my disapproval of the name "Cooperator" for our Greenbelt newspaper.

The Greenbelt "Town Crier" has been suggested as a fitting name. . . . but isn't that a bit "too loud?"

May I suggest the "Greenbelt News."

(Editor's note: We feel that "The Cooperator" expresses the cooperative aim of this community. However, more letters from our readers will determine whether or not this name is fitting.)

—January 5, 1938

* * *

The editors of the Cooperator have received letters suggesting that the name of the paper be changed.

The writers state that they had no voice in the selection of the name and since the paper be-

longs to the entire community, they have a right in asking that the name be changed. Without minimizing in the least the validity of this argument, the editors of the Cooperator feel that they should not entertain any suggestions regarding a change in the name of the paper until after a majority of the citizens of Greenbelt have moved in.

—January 12, 1938

Cooperator Members Discuss Name Change

The Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association Board of Directors met at the Cooperator office last Tuesday evening. . . .

Also on the agenda is a proposal to change the name of the Cooperator to one recommended by the Board. The Board will offer the names Greenbelt Observer, Greenbelt Spectator, and Greenbelt Review as choices. The idea of changing the name of the Cooperator has been considered for many years, but the Association's membership had never selected a suitable alternative.

—July 8, 1954

POLL

For Change of Name of Newspaper

Greenbelt Cooperative
Publishing Association

Please check your choice of name, or write in your own suggestion on the last space.

Greenbelt Bulletin
Greenbelt Chronicle
Greenbelt Citizen
Greenbelt Cooperator
Greenbelt Current News
Greenbelt Gazette
Greenbelt
Greenbelt Neighbor
Greenbelt News Review
Greenbelt Observer
Greenbelt Review
Greenbelt Scene
Greenbelt Spectator
Greenbelt Spokesman
Greenbelt Town Talk
Other
Address
Voter's Signature

Paper Is Renamed "News Review"

After 17 continuous years of publication under the name of the *Greenbelt Cooperator*, Greenbelt's weekly newspaper will appear with a new name as of next week's issue. The name, which will appear in a new type form, is the *Greenbelt News Review*.

The name was formally selected by the board of directors of the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association following an indication of preference for the name by a majority of staff members at the annual membership meeting Monday, September 13.

A previous public opinion poll conducted by the newspaper had resulted in a disappointing turnout, in which less than one hundred ballots were cast. About one-third of the votes preferred to retain the name of the Cooperator, while the remaining two-thirds of the votes were scattered among a variety of names.

A majority of the board of directors felt these results indicated a large majority preferred some name other than the Cooperator and therefore reaffirmed a previous decision to change the name. The new name was originally suggested by Harry Zubkoff, editor of the newspaper. . . .

—September 16, 1954

Name Change

Although three members of the outgoing board voted for changing the name of the Cooperator to the News Review, I believe their reasoning for such a change was erroneous. In the public poll taken on the name change, of 96 votes cast, 30 favored retaining the Cooperator. The remaining votes were distributed over the long list of names with the next highest receiving only seven. The three board members interpreted the poll to indicate that 30 wanted the name Cooperator, and 67 wanted the name changed.

By the same reasoning, over 80 did not want News Review!

—September 23, 1954

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To visit Liberty at Greenbrook: From the Capital Beltway, take the Baltimore-Washington Pkwy. (toward Baltimore) to Greenbelt Rd. exit. Left onto Greenbelt Rd. to Hanover Pkwy. Right on Hanover Pkwy. to Greenbrook Dr., left to Northshore sales office. Phone (301) 345-0151.

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Dog Poll

Dog Poll: The town council meeting, February 28 considered a subject for which Greenbelt has become renown—Dogs—to be or not to be.

The council asked for a report from a citizen, who voluntarily took a poll in Greenbelt on the question.

The results of the poll were: Question: Are you in favor of pets (particularly dogs) in Greenbelt?

Homes called on: 263

No one at home: 28

Answer "No": 325 (Husband and Wife)

Answer "Yes": 33 (Husband and Wife)

Non-committal: 23

A motion was adopted to send a letter to FSA (Farm Security Administration) giving the poll results as representative of Greenbelt opinion, and requesting that they enforce lease provisions. If when Greenbelt is fully populated, the FSA wishes to withdraw lease provisions, the Council will again consider a referendum.

—March 9, 1938

The Long View

By Al Long

One day last week I felt something growling at my ankles. I looked down and sure enough there was my town terrier, Russ Greenbaum—someone had apparently fed him some raw meat and let him loose again.

It's true Russ covered the GVHC board meetings as a reporter, and the sly dog wrote about how late the meetings ran, even when we adjourned quite early. Also, I argued long and loud at the board meetings, mostly about the undeveloped land. How right I was is pretty well proven by the fact that all we have is four empty houses and a gas station. Talk about selling your heritage for a mess of pottage, How long, oh how long, will the undeveloped land stay undeveloped at the expense of us taxpayers.

So much for Russ Greenbaum—Old Russ had better crawl back in his dog house, or I'll get his wife to write another letter to the editor.

I have a sneaking suspicion that Editor Harry Zubkoff would like to fire up a little feud—ing. . . .

—December 12, 1957

Salt Lake City, Utah
Can you please tell me the names of any other places besides Greenbelt which forbids the owning of dogs?

(Their barking drives me almost crazy here).

Tertius Chandler.

Ed. note: This letter was sent to the "Greenbelt Chamber of Commerce," and forwarded by the post office to the Greenbelt Library, which sent it to the Co-operator.)

—May 27, 1954

This concerns the dog issue. It is too bad to see a community so divided over a matter which is, after all, not so vital as many others. We are aware of the principle involved and of the need to uphold it; but we have been wondering whether a device, used sometimes when new zoning regulations must be applied to old areas, might not be a sound basis for compromise and a return to friendly relations all around.

In legal language it is called the "non-conforming use." The old use is allowed to go on for a specified time, usually the reasonably expected life of the property, at the end of which time the new principle is applied.

Why couldn't the pets be allowed under suitable restriction to stay with their owners for their lifetimes if the owners in return would agree not to acquire any new ones.

—October 31, 1957

How much more must the community endure before action is taken to protect its citizens from irresponsible pet owners? Earlier pleas to Council and city management regarding dangers posed by free-running dogs and excreta from dogs and cats seemed to have been made in vain. Lack of funds appears to be the excuse for not having effective animal control surveillance. However, can a price be set on the fear that strikes a child or adult when bitten by a dog; or on the anxiety experienced when a large strange dog bounds towards an elderly person; or on the concern about bacterial or viral contamination when animal wastes are found on walks, in flower beds, or vegetable gardens?

—July 21, 1983

All Pooped Out

Editor's Note: We are up to our ears in doggy letters. Here are excerpts from several—but please, no more!

—Once again Spring has come to Greenbelt. Yet as in the past the walkers and strollers have to play hopscotch over and around the dog piles.

When are the animal wardens going to do their jobs? The path of Gardenway to the garden plots, the ball park at 7 and 9 Courts of Southway, and the open field at Lastner Lane should be limed.

These areas are not doggy potty areas. Come on, citizens, just how much do we have to take?

—The county law concerning animal control states that "No person owning . . . a dog or cat . . . shall allow or permit excrement of such animal to remain on public property. . . ." The city regulations state the same.

Complaints have been written over and over in these columns. It's time these laws were enforced. It's time these people were fined.

I would like to remind the residents of Charlestowne Village who walk their dogs behind the 7700 building that the officially designated dog-walk area is back near the tree line, not next to the sidewalk and not at the side of the building.

I recently had a revealing conversation with an inconsiderate dog owner. I was sitting on the lawn 10 feet from the main entrance of the library. A gentleman with two dogs on leashes walked up, stopped, and watched as one of his dogs soiled the lawn six feet from where I sat. He then began to walk away.

I told him it was rude to leave dog soil on the ground. He replied he wasn't the kind to clean up after his dog. I said he ought to be ashamed, that I had to worry about every step I and my children took because of people like him. He walked away, saying, "Lady, you've got your opinion and I've got mine." I called, "There's a law against it." His response was, "Maybe so."

—April 16, 1987

Found: Small black kitten; owner please call at 43-Ridge Rd. (Mr. Braden, please do not read.)

—December 21, 1939

City Attacks Problem Of Dogs on Two Fronts

In response to many requests by ecologically minded citizens the Greenbelt Public Works Department has instituted a new service. In addition to collecting glass and old newspapers, the city is starting a project for recycling dog manure: the annual yield is conservatively estimated at several hundred tons, which can replace expensive commercial fertilizer in landscaping and beautification projects. Residents should bring their dogs droppings to the Public Works building on weekdays during working hours in securely closed glass containers (which will be recycled separately) or plastic bags: no shopping bags or paper containers, please!

In the meantime, the chief of the Greenbelt Police Force declared today "War on Poop," as he presented each of his 17 patrolmen with brass-handled, individually engraved pooper scoopers. These patrolmen have as their sole responsibility over a 24-hour period, beginning today, picking up dog and cat droppings and incarcerating any offending animal within the city limits of Greenbelt.

Pet owners may recover their animals only on written promise of purchasing their own brass-handled, individually engraved scoop which the police will be selling at the bargain price of \$19.95.

April Fools—1976

Assignment Beavers . . .

What was it? An otter? A muskrat? I looked at its ears and dark fur. Was it . . .

Just then, the creature spooked, and dove to the safety of the dark water. As he did, an unmistakable paddle-shaped tail rose up and smacked the water's surface.

A beaver! In Greenbelt Lake? What was it doing here? And how did it manage to survive the travails of Kenilworth Avenue, the Beltway, or—gasp—Crescent Road, to find a home in our humble pond? And doesn't the dummy know that we already have a dam?

I spoke to Greenbelt's Animal Warden Martha Fenn, who is keeping a close eye on the situation.

"They've been there since the fall of '86, when they built a dam near the peninsula," she said. "When they do that, that means that they are going to be there for the season." She said that a storm blew the dam to bits earlier this year.

There has been some concern from the residents near the lake about possible problems with the beavers. "People have been asked weird questions about how beavers sharpen their teeth. They worry about beavers cutting down all the trees around the lake," said Fenn. But even though the beavers have cut down a few trees, she says the worries are unfounded.

"This seems to be a people-

wise beaver," explained Fenn. "It probably came down from the Agricultural Research Center. Sometimes he gets rowdy in the middle of the lake and shows off, swimming around and slapping his tail, like he wants everybody to see him."

A long time ago, I was speaking to a biologist at the University of Maryland, and he told me how he attracted beavers with a recording of running water. Apparently, they thought that it was a break in their dam, and covered the speaker with mud and sticks.

My assignment from the News Review editor was to get a picture of the critter, but even with my longest telephoto, the head was just a black blob. Then, I got an idea.

I took my cassette recorder down to the spillway, and got a good recording of gurgling water. Then, I took it to the north shore near the peninsula. I played the recording and, after a while, there he was, swimming in the middle of the lake.

Would he swim toward me, so I could get a good shot? I sat on the shore, waiting, going through an entire set of batteries, wondering if my cassette recorder would end up covered with brown gook from the lake's bottom, placed there by a frantic flat tail. But he just stayed in the middle of the lake. I'm afraid my beaver attracter didn't work worth a dam.

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Greenbelt, Shorts and Congress

The *Greenbelt News Review*, has long been convinced that the city ordinance forbidding the wearing of shorts, along with certain other specified garments, in the shopping center is just plain ridiculous. Now a recent ruling by both houses of Congress points up how silly the Greenbelt ordinance is. These august and dignified bodies have ruled that it is permissible for visitors in the galleries to wear shorts. According to the news item, the House of Representatives was at first doubtful about permitting this but then it discovered that the Senate had quietly permitted the wearing of shorts for weeks without detracting from the dignity of its proceedings.

We don't want to be trite and say what's good enough for Congress is good enough for Greenbelt. However, we feel that if the eyes of our country's leaders are not offended by the sight of adults wearing shorts in the midst of their profound deliberations on the laws of the land, then certainly Greenbelt residents should not recoil in shocked horror at men and women attired in shorts while shopping at the Center.

This newspaper has never advocated the entire repeal of the ordinance, which also forbids the wearing of kimonos, bathing suits, bathrobes, and housecoats. . . . — August 4, 1955

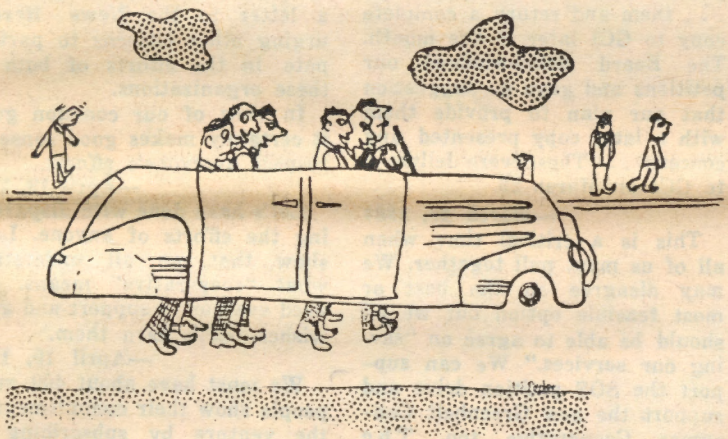
Shorts Aftermath

We note with interest that the shorts campaigners have not yet accepted defeat at the hands of the city council but have countered with a strategic maneuver. They have made themselves wrap-around skirts which barely cover their shorts and wear them as a cover for the offending garments when they shop at the Center. Since their shorts in this case are mere undergarments, they are conforming to the letter, if not the spirit, of the law.

The girls evidently hope that this fad will catch on as a means of pointing out that the prohibition against shorts is pointless. Meanwhile, they enjoy the coolness of shorts without breaking the law. It is possible, of course, that the city council might strike back by banning skirts of a specific length, and it would give the police the interesting, although perhaps embarrassing job of measuring skirts of doubtful length.

If the city council persists in assuming that the issue is now dead, then they obviously failed to realize that they are dealing with a band of determined women. They may discover there is quite a bit of truth in that old warning about a "woman scorned".

July 22, 1954



"As soon as they establish a tax rate I'll find out whether I can buy new tires . . ."

Shorts Ordinance Branded Unfair

An appeal to rescind the "shorts" ordinance was made last Monday night by Mrs. Glenn Burrows at the city council meeting. Permitting shorts to be worn by Greenbelt citizens everywhere in the community except in the business center is unfair, Mrs. Burrows stated, and an "abrogation of personal freedom."

Mayor Frank Lastner commented that the ordinance had been in effect for many years and was often a subject of controversy. He declared that a referendum may be needed to settle the problem at this time.

Councilman Ben Goldfaden called it a difficult problem, and stated, "I can see the lady's point of view." However, he felt the matter needed looking into. He feared that "men would get into the act" and start wearing shorts and bathing suits at the shopping center and it would distract from the appearance of the community. . . .

—June 17, 1954

Police Arrest 10, Issue 35 Warnings

Ten arrests and 35 warnings were issued locally during the month of July, it was reported by Director of Public Safety George Panagoulis at last Thursday's Town Council meeting.

Of the arrests, two were for disorderly conduct; one for parking; two for stop sign violations; four for speeding; and one for having no registration card. Warnings included 24 of a traffic nature, 10 for wearing shorts in the center, and one for leaving an auto motor running.

—August 21, 1942

Council Tables Vote

On Shorts Ordinance

Shorts are still forbidden at the Center business area, as the city council refused to take action on the controversial ordinance at the city council meeting last Monday night. Mrs. Glenn Burrows, speaking for the opponents to the shorts ordinance, cited a poll taken last week by the Cooperator which resulted in 327 against the shorts prohibition and 269 in favor of the status quo; a majority of 58. Mrs. Burrows stated that the Greenbelt Citizens Association and the board of Greenbelt Consumer Services had also endorsed removing the ban on shorts.

—July 15, 1954

No one seems to know what happened to the shorts ordinance. Perhaps it was left behind one of the times the city laws were codified. At any rate the *News Review* can't take any credit for its disappearance.

Shorts Poll Final

Counting last-minute, mailed-in ballots, the final tally of ballots in the Cooperator's poll on the issue of permitting the wearing of shorts in the shopping center showed 340 in favor of shorts and 275 opposed. This gave a majority of 55 votes to those who wish the city ordinance to be changed.

The total vote of 605 Greenbelt residents consisted mostly of the voting that was conducted at the center on Friday night, July 9, and all day Saturday, July 10. Mail ballots were counted up through Tuesday, July 13. The actual number of ballots was less since many husbands and wives voted on the same ballot.

—July 15, 1954

A complaint was made about girls wearing shorts in the drug store. The complainant hung up the phone before identifying himself. The girls were gone when the police arrived.

—June 16, 1949



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon.-Sat., 11:30 - 2:00 a.m.
Sunday, 3:30 - 2:00 a.m.

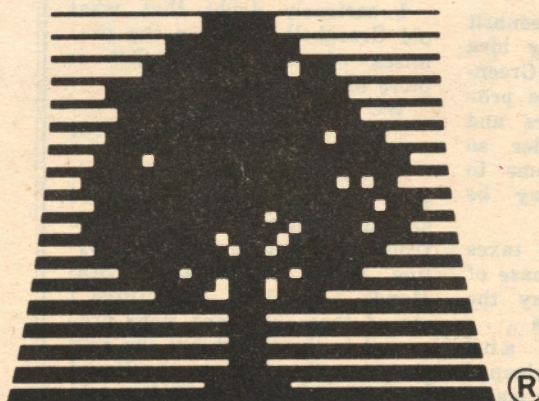
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Museum Opposition

Museum Supporters . . .

When the idea of a museum for Greenbelt was expressed, we expected the usual Greenbelt-type debate—lively and useful. We thought that people might disagree on what the collection should be, how the museum should be organized, where it should be located or who would operate it. We did not anticipate a debate on whether or not there should be a museum.

Sandy and Ray Smith

* * *

. . . GHI has a long and interesting history and this history is of interest to many people both inside and outside of Greenbelt.

These homes are unique and using one to house the original furniture is a very suitable way to welcome visitors.

—October 30, 1986

* * *

The recent debate regarding a site for the proposed Greenbelt Museum is one that threatens to compromise not only the success, but the integrity of this fine project. To suggest setting aside a room in the North End School (even temporarily) for use as a museum space would reduce the concept of an historically and architecturally accurate museum site to one of "simple exhibition" of a representative sampling of furniture, books, and historical artifacts. . . . First and foremost, the Museum must have a permanent home. To forego an opportunity to house the Museum in its proper and rightful historical context would be a disservice to the town and future Museum visitors.

—April: 10, 1986

A recent letter in the News Review stated that support for a Greenbelt museum was not mentioned in the bond issue referendum.

I was a fairly new resident of the city at the time of the bond issue referendum, so I was very interested in it. There was a brochure entitled "Looking to the Future" which was distributed to all residents. This brochure was about the bond issue referendum and what the money was to be used for. . . . The museum section read:

City Museum

. . . Greenbelt will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1987. A citizen committee already is planning for this event. One of the committee's objectives is to establish a small museum to preserve memorabilia relating to the history of the city and its establishment by the Federal Government as a model planned community. A proposal being considered is the purchase of a GHI duplex, with one unit being restored to the way a typical home looked when first occupied, and the other unit being used for displays and office space.

"While the bond issue proposal authorizes funds to be expended for acquiring a museum building, other sources of funding for this project will be sought as well."

—April 3, 1986

* * *

Recently a letter appeared in the News Review suggesting that the proposed Greenbelt Museum be located in the North End School. . . . In the opinion of the Museum Committee this would not be a desirable location for the museum and we have never considered it a serious candidate.

The creation of a Greenbelt

museum has been discussed for fifteen years, and the approach of the Fiftieth Anniversary has provided a surge of enthusiasm that, together with much hard work on the part of many volunteers, has brought us within sight of achieving our goal. . . .

The Museum Committee came up with the following criteria to be used in selecting a site for the museum:

1. Close to the Roosevelt Center.
2. On or visible from Crescent Road or (less desirable) Southway.
3. A structure built when Greenbelt was founded, preferably a GHI house.
4. Good security, dampproof with dehumidifiers, fire resistant.
5. Proximity to other original Greenbelt structures and features, e.g. underpass, walkways, playground, apartments.
6. Acceptable parking
7. Ease of obtaining
8. Capital outlay
9. Maintenance costs
10. Minimal renovations needed.
11. Control over appearance of exterior and garden. . . .

It seems only yesterday that members of the Museum Committee almost despaired of ever finding an obtainable house in a prime location. Now one is available—let's not lose it!

—March 13, 1986

FOGM has almost 200 members. I wanted to get a feel which percent of the citizenry this represents, and have tried two approaches:

—Greenbelt has 8,643 "dwelling units." Assuming that each unit houses one family, and that each FOGM member belongs to a different family, then fewer than 2.3% of Greenbelt families actively want a Museum.

—One might argue that just living in Greenbelt is not sufficient reason to be listened to. One should at least have voted. Those non-voting persons will have to accept what the others decide! O.K.: 1880 votes were cast during the last election. Assuming that every FOGM member is eligible to vote and did so, then about 10½% of the voters actively support a Museum. The other 89½% is either indifferent or actively opposed.

Somewhere I get the feeling that the way to "get things done" is not to represent the majority, but to get three members of Council to "see things your way. . . ."

September 11, 1986

For attention of all Greenbelt Taxpayers. Have you any idea what the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) are proposing that we taxpayers and members of GHI shoulder so that their ego mad scheme to establish a museum may be realized?

The city is to use our taxes to fund not only the purchase of a GHI home, but to pay the monthly charges on same . . . maintain the exterior and grounds, have windows cleaned at least twice a year . . . maintain an account to pay bills the museum may incur. Also perform services for FOGM—that is, accounting, contracting and purchasing . . . Do you as taxpayers really want to foot such a bill?

October 2, 1986

Correction

The News Review regrets an inadvertent magnification of the height of the proposed Greenbelt Hilton Hotel described on page 7 of the June 4 issue.

The 13 story tower of the hotel may reach a height of 175 feet, but not 715 feet, as stated. At 715 feet, each of the 13 stories would be 52 feet high.

— June 11, 1981

SOS vs GCC

To the Editor:

Although separated by a thousand miles and forty-four years, I am concerned that the co-op food store and pharmacy conceived as hope for a better future, and that so many hundreds of us worked to create may perish from the town. You who have stayed and still live there, please put your minds and wills together to find the methods that will make our dreams survive.

As I see the situation, volunteer consumer members working cooperatively with essential employees could lower operating costs and have fun doing it. Put on your creative bonnets. There can be much less dependence on highly paid management.

I am enclosing a Wedge Community Co-op Handbook describing operating procedures that have worked successfully here.

Eleanor Roosevelt, Rex Tugwell, Edward Filene, Sherrod East, Bob Volckhausen joined many others in creating the organization that has survived this long and will lead the way for our stores to continue to serve its members.

Robert E. Jacobsen
Minneapolis

(First resident manager under the Co-op Organizing Committee)

Editor's Note: We have passed along the Wedge Community Co-op Handbook to GHI's Ad Hoc Community Committee to preserve Greenbelt's Co-op.

—February 2, 1984

I write to argue in support of persuading the Greenbelt Co-op board to keep our supermarket open for six months while its future re-incarnation is being worked out.

There is a story about a not-too-bright farmer who raised apples. He figured it cost him \$4 per dozen to raise them. When he took them to market, he sold them for 30 cents each. Soon he discovered that he was losing money. He thought it over a lot, and finally the solution came to him. What he needed was a bigger truck!

I seriously doubt that what old Greenbelt needs on the premises of the supermarket is more of the same. . . .

We Need More Time.

—March 1, 1984

Where's the Beef?? GCI is still waiting to see the 1,004 signed petitions. Last week's front page article (with no by-line under the caption "SOS Hands GCI 1004 Signatures") stated these petitions were presented to the Board, but the only petitions "handed" to the Board were blank forms. SOS has told GCI, the News Review and The Journal that they exist but has yet to produce them. . . .

Let's cast aside the "Big Bun" offers and concentrate on the beef!

—March 22, 1984



The Hilton consists of a single slim tower for guest rooms resting on a broad base. The material used is predominantly precast concrete so as to harmonize and be compatible with the adjoining office buildings in the Capital Office Park.

— December 26, 1985

Yes, we sought so-called "fanfare." . . . We felt that without making use of the media, a citizens group stood little chance against a conglomerate with \$11 million in assets and over \$50 million in sales last year. . . .

On March 12 . . . a delegation from SOS presented before the Board 1004 signed petitions and informed them that more were anticipated. . . . Rather than leaving the original petitions with them that evening, we explained that we would photocopy . . . them and return a complete copy to GCI later in the month. The Board acknowledged our petitions and gave no suggestion that our plan to provide them with a later copy presented any concern. . . . These were delivered to GCI on March 26.

—March 29, 1984

This is a critical time when all of us must pull together. We may disagree on the best or most feasible option but we all should be able to agree on "saving our services." We can support the SOS petition drive and support the new Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative too. The "Beef" in Greenbelt has always been its unity and community spirit. Unfortunately, the missing ingredient this time is unified community leadership.

—March 29, 1984

Once again, let's concentrate on the beef!!

—April 5, 1984

Let's stop this nonsense and these unwarranted attacks on the SOS Citizens Committee. Citizens certainly have a right to participate in more than one way to preserve the services that the co-op provides in Greenbelt without being criticized in letters to the News Review.

I joined the new Greenbelt co-op organization and the SOS committee, and weeks ago wrote a letter to the News Review urging other citizens to participate in the efforts of both of these organizations.

In view of our common goal, it certainly makes good sense to respect everyone's efforts.

—April 19, 1984

Let's have done with disparaging the efforts of anyone. Let's show that we all understand what "cooperative" means. We need everyone's support and good wishes. Let's earn them.

—April 19, 1984

We must have about 400 more people show their commitment to the venture by subscribing at least \$10. The handwriting is on the wall, and all of us who find the store convenient at its present location should read it, because it says "Help!"

—April 19, 1984

Grand Opening Tonight! Grand Opening Tonight! Grand Opening Tonight!

The Co-op Bar



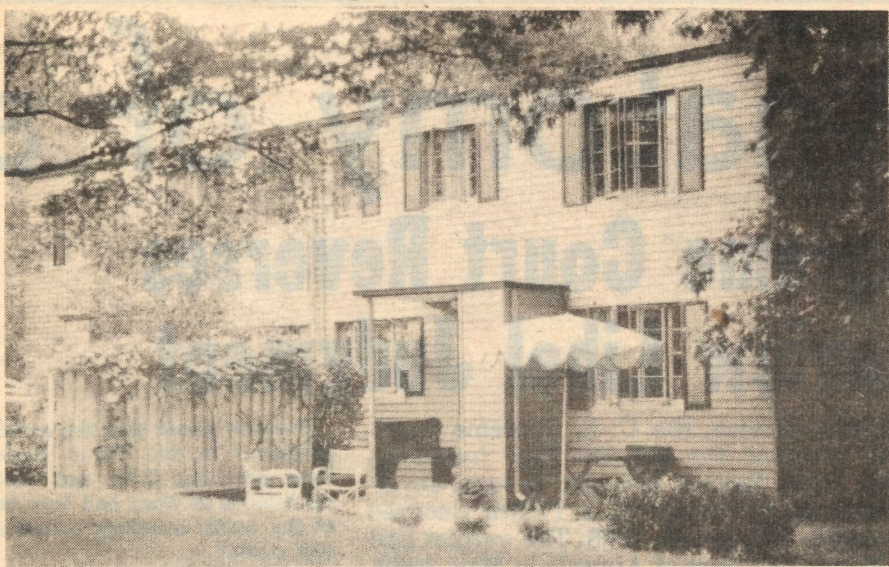
PHOTO BY YAR MAHAN
We operate under the usual cooperative system, even to the extent of patronage refunds. Save your empty beer bottles, return them at the end of the year, and get your refund. Any similarity between this and any existing Co-op is strictly coincidental.

Opening Night Special: Two-quart souvenir hip flask to all the gentlemen

REMEMBER! THE MAN WHO WANTS TO GET AHEAD GETS IT AT

The Co-op Bar

(For those you prefer their beer in cans—we have the biggest can in town!)



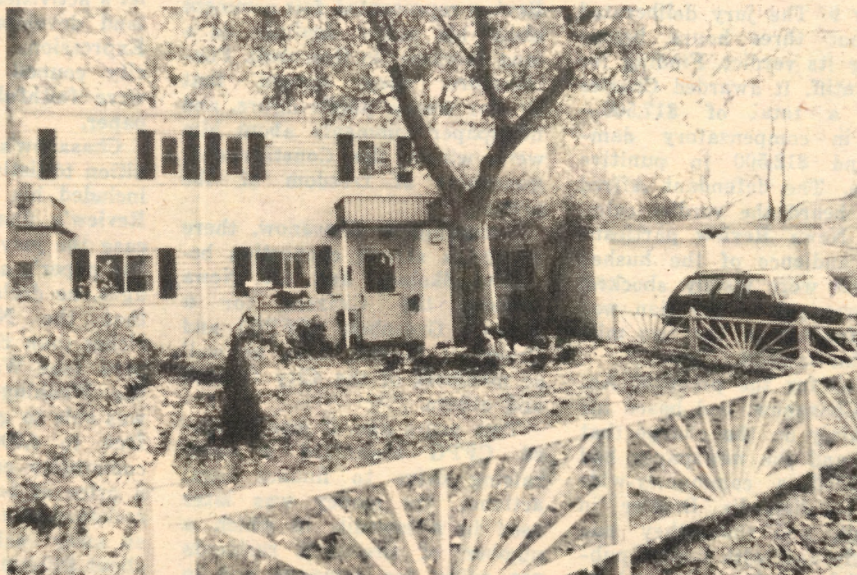
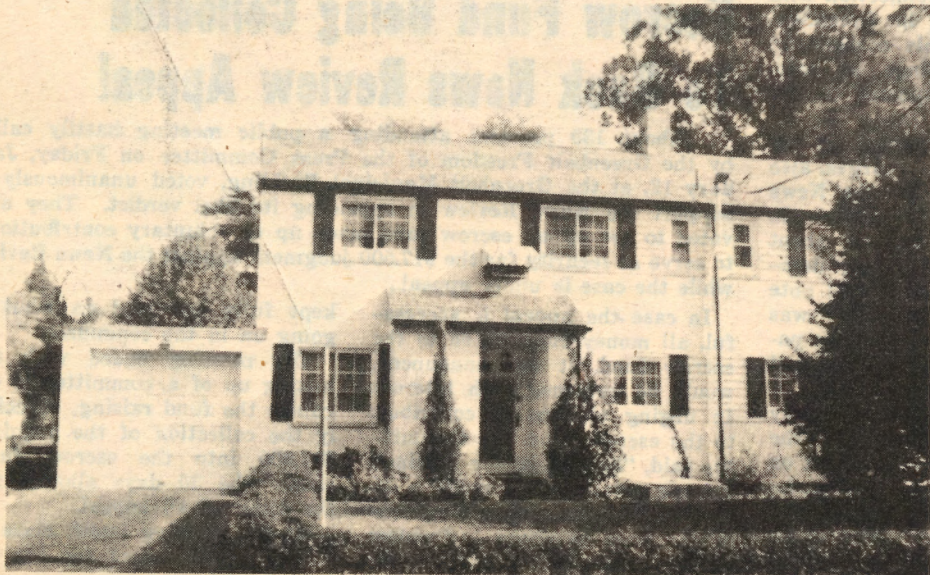
The Board of Directors
of
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.



Congratulates the Greenbelt News Review

for 50 years
of Community Involvement
through Volunteerism
in producing a continuous flow of news to the Greenbelt community.
The **GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW**
has played a major role in fostering the civic activism that is so
prevalent throughout Greenbelt and is to be commended for rallying
support for worthy causes when problems and issues have arisen.

Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
is proud to have been associated with the
Greenbelt News Review
for over 35 years and grateful to its staff who have dedicated their
time to keep us informed. We trust that the Greenbelt News Review
will continue its successes over the next 50 years.



On July 18, 1966 the Greenbelt News Review was hit with a \$2,000,000 libel suit initiated by a local real estate developer, Charles S. Bresler, who was a member of the State legislature and also a candidate for the post of Maryland State Comptroller at the time. The suit's main charge was that the newspaper had published defamatory remarks made against Bresler by citizens at public sessions of the Greenbelt city council in October, 1965. The remarks were directed to a proposal of Bresler's that had sought city support for rezoning for apartments a large tract of land (parcels 1 and 2) he and his associates owned in exchange for selling to the city another tract (parcel 15), favored by the city for a senior high school site. A Prince Georges county jury in January, 1968 found the remarks libelous and a \$17,500 judgment awarded Bresler was later affirmed by the Maryland Court of Appeals in May, 1969.

The case was successfully appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court which unanimously reversed and vacated the judgment in May, 1970. The nation's highest court ruled that the News Review was "performing its wholly legitimate function as a community newspaper when it published full reports of these public debates in its news columns."

The articles on this page are taken from the News Review files and depict the major events in the libel suit.

Chas. Bresler Files \$2,000,000 Suit Against News Review

A suit asking \$2,000,000 in damages has been filed by Charles Bresler, local developer, against the Greenbelt News Review and its president, Alfred M. Skolnik. The suit quoted excerpts from three news stories, two headlines, three letters to the editor, and two editorials over a 9-month period as being printed "without reasonable justification or excuse."

The quoted material for the most part dealt with Bresler's transactions and negotiations with the city council and county school board regarding his land holdings.

The suit, filed by Bresler's attorney Abraham Chasanow, on July 18, in the Prince Georges Circuit Court charges the newspaper with publishing material that exposed Bresler to "public scorn, hatred, contempt, disgrace and ridicule" and degraded him "in the esteem or opinion of the residents of the City of Greenbelt and the State of Maryland and elsewhere."

The suit further said that the

material was published for the purpose of imputing to Bresler "the commission of the crime of blackmail" and "corrupt and dishonest motives in his dealings with City, County and State officials and others."

The suit claims that such action injured Bresler in his business reputation and occupation and in his financial credit and transactions.

The News Review has engaged David Reich of the District and Maryland bar and the firm of Royall, Koegel, and Rogers of New York and Washington, D.C. to defend the action.

—July 28, 1966

News Review Drive Over \$1400; Delivery Service to be Expanded

Developer Charles Bresler won his libel suit against the Greenbelt News Review, instituted in July 1966, when an Upper Marlboro jury found the newspaper and its president, Alfred Skolnik, guilty of libel, and ordered \$17,500 damages to be paid to the plaintiff. A glum group of Greenbelters witnessed the closing moments of the trial which has gripped the community's interest during the past week.

After 5 days of testimony and arguments before Circuit Judge Robert B. Mathias, the trial ended on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 9. The jury deliberated for about three hours before reaching its verdict. Finding for the plaintiff, it awarded Charles Bresler a total of \$17,500—\$5,000 in compensatory damages and \$12,500 in punitive damages. The defendant Alfred Skolnik heard the verdict calmly, but News Review partisans in the audience of the hushed courtroom were visibly shocked. The newspaper corporation was a co-defendant in the two million dollar lawsuit.

Counsel for the plaintiff, Abraham Chasanow, had based his case mainly on the charge that Skolnik and the newspaper had spearheaded a community-wide effort to discredit Bresler in Greenbelt, and that they had knowingly and with malice published false information about the plaintiff in a deliberate attempt to damage his reputation.

Roger A. Clark and David Reich, counsels for the defense, had argued that the statements about Bresler published by the News Review represented fair comment about his public dealings as a land developer in Greenbelt. Furthermore, they argued that Bresler was a public figure, and newspaper comments about him were within the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press.

According to Chasanow, there existed a strong connection between Skolnik and the News Review, the Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt (CFPG) and Greenbelt Homes, Inc., as well as members of the City Council and others.

Two years ago, it was asserted, CFPG organized a fund-raising drive to finance legal actions; the money was later used in a lawsuit, in which a number of Greenbelt residents are suing for damages and in which Bresler and Chasanow are defendants.

Anatomy of a U.S. Supreme Court Reverses News Review Libel Judgment

In a unanimous 8-0 decision, the U. S. Supreme Court on Monday May 18, reversed the \$17,500 libel judgment against the Greenbelt News Review awarded to local developer Charles S. Bresler as the result of a Prince Georges Circuit Court jury verdict in January, 1968. The verdict had been upheld by the Maryland Court of Appeals in May, 1969.

The main issue in the case involved the publication by the News Review of remarks made by citizens at two city council meetings in October, 1965 which characterized as "blackmail" a proposal of the developer that sought city support for rezoning.

Bresler's attorney, Abraham Chasanow, maintained that the articles imputed to Bresler "the commission of the crime of blackmail" and were published because the paper bore hostility toward Bresler.

In the decision rendered by Justice Potter Stewart, the court held "that as a matter of constitutional law, the word 'blackmail' in these circumstances was not slander when spoken, and not libel when reported in the Greenbelt News Review." The court referred to the fact that Bresler's negotiations with the city were a subject of substantial concern to all who lived in the community and had evoked substantial controversy and heated debates.

Publishing Reports Legitimate

Justice Stewart agreed with the argument put forward by the newspaper's attorney, Roger A. Clark, that the newspaper was "performing its wholly legitimate function as a community

Moreover, he said, in reporting on two City Council meetings, the News Review had quoted citizens who had, in effect, characterized Bresler's proposals to Council as "blackmail." By imputing this serious crime to the plaintiff, Chasanow charged, the newspaper had damaged his reputation. Clark, on the other hand, did not argue that the charge of blackmail was true, but attempted to make clear that the term "blackmail," as used in the context of the articles in question, did not imply any criminal charge.

Clark noted there was wide community concern about Bresler's activities in connection with land development in Greenbelt. Expressions of this concern at city council meetings, he said, were faithfully reported in the paper.

Chasanow's summation, in addition to listing the charges, also included his view of the News Review's financial resources. In case the jury was worried about the paper's ability to pay damages, he declared, it should note that the News Review was richer than the metropolitan papers (the Washington Post and the Washington Star) since it was able to give the paper away free to 4,000 residents of the community each week. Based on a price of ten cents a copy, he reckoned, the 200,000 copies given away each year added up to about \$20,000 given away by the paper each year.

—January 11, 1968

newspaper when it published full reports of these public debates in its news columns." To hold otherwise, the high court said, "would subvert the most fundamental meaning of a free press."

With respect to the word "blackmail," Stewart said, "it was simply impossible to believe" that the articles could be read as charging Bresler with a crime. "Even the most careless reader," the Justice continued, "must have perceived that the word was no more than rhetorical hyperbole, a vigorous epithet used by those who considered Bresler's negotiating position extremely unreasonable."

Stewart noted that the articles published in the News Review were accurate, full, and truthful reports of what had been said at the public hearings before the city council.

Instructions to Jury

In reversing the judgment the court held that the instructions to the jury constituted an "error of constitutional magnitude." To define "malice," as the trial judge did, to include "spite, hostility, or deliberate intention to harm" Justice Stewart said, was contrary to the New York Times rule.

The New York Times rule precludes recovery in libel suits by public officials and public figures except where they can prove that a false and defamatory statement was made with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not.

—May 21, 1970

Md. Court of Appeals Sustains Judgment in News Review Libel Suit

A unanimous Maryland Court of Appeals on Friday, May 2, affirmed the \$17,500 libel judgment awarded local developer Charles S. Bresler against the Greenbelt News Review in a January 1968 Prince Georges Circuit Court jury verdict.

The appellant News Review had argued that the word "blackmail" was an expression of opinion used in a non-criminal, colloquial sense to mean the exercise of pressure, but Judge Wilson K. Barnes, who wrote the opinion for the five-man Court of Appeals, said that the intended meaning was for the jury to determine. "The charging of Mr. Bresler with having committed blackmail could be found by the jury (as it was) that he was charged with the commission of a crime," he said.

Judge Barnes rejected the appellant's argument that the "blackmail" articles were constitutionally protected because they were accurate reports of what was said during official public meetings of the Greenbelt city council regarding a public proposal of great interest to the

community. The court ruled that the Federal constitutional protection provided by the New York Times rule did not apply since there was "credible evidence" from which the jury could find that the newspaper published the articles with actual knowledge of the falsity of the charge of the commission of the crime of blackmail.

The court concluded that "there were sufficient facts to indicate to the jury an affirmative hostility, a personal animus against Bresler and a desire on the part of the publishers of the News Review to injure his reputation and standing in the Greenbelt area through the use of false charges." The Court of Appeals also found no prejudicial error in the rulings and charge of the trial court.

—May 8, 1969

Escrow Fund Being Collected To Back News Review Appeal

About 130 persons, attending a public meeting hastily called by the Greenbelt Freedom of the Press Committee on Friday, January 12, at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, voted unanimously to support the News Review in appealing its libel verdict. They also voted to set up an escrow fund made up of voluntary contributions, to serve as security for the \$17,500 judgment against the News Review while the case is under appeal.

In case the appeal is successful, all money contributed to the escrow fund, it was announced, would be returned with interest. In urging citizens to contribute to the escrow fund, the Committee said, "Seldom in our lifetimes are we privileged to make a direct contribution to protect one of our basic freedoms — freedom of the press. This is not just the News Review's right to report the news, but your right to be

kept fully informed on what is going on in the community."

The meeting ended with the setting up of a committee to organize the fund raising, especially the collection of the required \$17,500 into the escrow fund, within the 30 days allowed for the filing of an appeal.

At the meeting itself, close to \$12,000 was pledged for the escrow fund.

—January 18, 1968

Libel Suit

Wedded to the News Review: Alfred and Elaine Skolnik

Editor's Note: For the staff of the News Review, the last five years were dominated by the libel suit, which absorbed all the energies we had to spare. By far the greatest share of the burden was borne by our Board President, Al Skolnik, and his wife Elaine. Since the character of their leadership was so important to us during this period, we felt that this special issue was the natural place to acknowledge it with a story about these two remarkable people.

This suggestion was not well received by the Skolniks, who have always disliked personal publicity. The Board nevertheless decided to override their objections because of our feeling that such a story was appropriate at this time; even more, that it would be a distortion to omit it.

Some people have religion. The Skolniks have the News Review.

Crammed into their cheerful, spotless GHI house is a complete back file, in multiple, of the News Review. This is Alfred Skolnik's answer to the high cost of fire insurance; the News Review cannot afford to insure its office. Skolnik is archive-minded. When they drop the Bomb he will expire fretting that the files of the newspaper were in the target zone.

Even Elaine Skolnik rebels against keeping 5,000 old newspapers under the tea towels, but it doesn't help. Her husband, a man utterly without small talk, is a debater of massive obstinacy on the subjects that interest him. His knowledge of Greenbelt's history is encyclopedic and his memory phenomenal. Al is a walking morgue (newspaper morgue, that is).

Conservative Crusader

No one could be more unlike the popular idea of a crusading journalist than Skolnik. "Al is a deeply conservative liberal," says one of the newspaper's 40 former editors. "He always starts by saying: 'It's too strong. Can't we tone it down?'" Skolnik deplores controversy, loves compromise, and recoils from sensationalism of any kind. He is never happier than when lack of space compels the editor to omit the police news. Imperceptibly, idealism and stubbornness enmeshed him in the four year conflict that was the libel suit.

Al Skolnik became the unsalaried president of the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Co., publishers of the News Review, in 1959 and has been reelected every year. A native of New Jersey who has lived in Greenbelt for 20 years, he is chief of a research branch in the Social Security Administration and holds a Ph.D. in political science.

A neighbor persuaded the Skolniks to join the staff of the News Review in 1955 and for a few years Skolnik covered meetings as a reporter. His wife began to write the column, "Our Neighbors," which is still a popular feature.

Early Hardships

When Skolnik became president in 1959, the News Review was on the brink of the grave. Advertisers had quit, the morale of the shrinking staff was low, and the paper's indebtedness to the printer was growing greater every week. The Skolniks tried a door-to-door fund drive, followed by a second in 1960; they also solicited ads. To their relief, these campaigns were successful enough to make additional fund drives unnecessary (until the lawsuit came along).

The News Review gradually took over their lives, until now Elaine Skolnik says: "I don't

think I could ever give it up."

Nor could her husband. "Al would do anything for the News Review," she says. "If the kids wanted him to take them someplace . . . well, maybe. But he'd travel miles to pick up the Pepco ad for the paper when it doesn't come in time."

Al believes strongly in freedom of the press. "What people often forget," he says, "is that freedom of the press means not just the newspaper's right to publish without harassment or intimidation, but also the citizen's right to express his views."

That is why he stresses so much the role of the newspaper in providing a forum for the exchange of views. "We have a liberal policy on printing letters to the editor. We feel this is very necessary. As reporters, we can strive to avoid errors, but we are only human. If any person feels that he is not given a fair shake in the newspaper's columns or feels that the issues have not been presented fairly, we urge him to use the Letters to the Editor column."

Zoning and Gossip

As for Elaine Skolnik, she is attractive and very feminine; few can resist her warmth and friendliness. Underneath a fluffy manner she is shrewd, skeptical and tireless in research. She has developed into an expert on the local zoning and sewage morass and an able reporter. "It's funny how you can think something's so boring until you get into it," she comments. The style of her

Some of the domestic repercussions of the lawsuit pained her. "I was always racing around to Marlboro or Washington—wherever work had to be done for our lawyers. Consequently, the children, who were used to having me at home, had a lot of adjusting to do, and I had a lot of guilt feelings. As for my mother?" she said. "Her reaction was unprintable. She thought I was fading away." (Elaine's weight hovers around 102 pounds and she lost ten pounds during the lawsuit.)

Taking a Stand

When Elaine was a coed studying occupational therapy at New York University, the last thing she imagined she'd ever find herself doing was newspaper work. "I never liked controversy and

COMMITTEE IS FORMED TO SOLICIT FUNDS FOR NEWS REVIEW LAW SUIT

A Greenbelt Freedom of the Press Committee has been formed as a result of the \$2,000,000 libel suit filed by land developer Charles S. Bresler against the Greenbelt News Review and its president, Alfred M. Skolnik. The Committee will solicit and collect funds inside and outside of Greenbelt to assist the defendants in meeting legal and other expenses incurred in connection with the suit.

The Committee is asking that contributions be mailed or deposited to the Committee's account at Twin Pines Savings and Loan Association, 105 Centerway.

The Committee will also conduct a door-to-door campaign for funds.

—August 4, 1966

Press Escrow Fund Available for Refunds

The Greenbelt Freedom of the Press Committee disbanded officially last week with the announcement that the \$20,000 collected in the Freedom of the Press Escrow Fund in connection with the News Review libel case is now available for refund to contributors with interest. Contact should be made directly with Twin Pines Savings and Loan Association, custodian of the funds.

Charles F. Schwan and Albert K. Herling, co-chairmen of the Freedom of the Press Committee, joined the News Review staff in expressing their deep appreciation to the community for the support given the principle of freedom of the press.

They also wished to acknowledge that debt owed to the newspaper's attorney, Roger A. Clark of the firm of Royall, Koege, and Wells, who successfully carried the case from the trial court to the U.S. Supreme Court on a volunteer basis.

—August 27, 1970

when there was an argument, I'd run in the other direction," she said. "I still don't like to argue, but the News Review has taught me you have to take a stand. It's given more substance to life."

"I love Greenbelt. You either like it or you don't. Some people find the entrance depressing, the clotheslines and frame homes unsightly. I never felt that way. They're part of the scene along with the trees, the parkland, and the wonderful recreational facilities a kid can walk to in safety."

"Greenbelt is a way of life—that's why I'm interested in zoning and the environment. Years ago there were few to defend the public. Fortunately, this is no longer the case—there are many now to carry the 'Greenbelt will never give up' banner. I remember when, in the mid-1960's, we'd come home from Marlboro bloodied. Outside of Greenbelt we were known as nuts—oddballs."

"If you were defending the public interest, you were crazy. The pendulum has been swinging the other way, perhaps not fast enough, but enough so that we no longer feel we're always on the losing end."

—November 1972

Community Gives Support

The impact of the libel suit was not limited to the News Review. The community itself was outraged, for it saw a threat not only to the newspaper's freedom to report the activities of a public figure, but also to the public's right to know, to be kept informed of a public controversy that was being generated by his activities. Within a week, a Greenbelt Freedom of the Press Committee was organized, chaired by Charles F. Schwan and Albert K. Herling, to raise money for the newspaper's defense. When the News Review lost in the lower court, the Freedom Committee launched a successful drive to collect \$20,000 to cover the judgment while the case was appealed to the higher court. Altogether, the community contributed over \$30,000 and it was this evidence of community support that sustained the newspaper during the 4-year legal struggle.

Fight For Freedom

Have you ever thought of what it would be like to open your front door Thursday nights and find no News Review resting on the step? True, this happens once in a while when the newsboy is sick or makes a mistake, but then you can always pick up an extra copy at Twin Pines.

But if the News Review were to cease publishing, and the doorstep were empty every Thursday night, think of the vacuum that would exist. How would we know of actions City Council took, of decisions made by the GHI board, of club meetings to be held, of swimming lessons registration—of a million and one things that make up the unique fabric of our lives in Greenbelt?

Let us not wait to see what our city would be like without our precious newspaper, which incidentally is free. Give generously to the News Review Legal Defense Fund (or Freedom of the Press Drive as it is also known) when the collector comes to your door. The News Review fights for your freedom to know—let us fight for its freedom to live.

—June 29, 1967

As Others Viewed It

"The U. S. Supreme Court, reaffirming its commitment to free-wheeling debate on major issues, unanimously overturned yesterday the \$17,500 libel judgment . . ."

—Washington Post, May 19, 1970

"Newspapers won clearance from the Supreme Court today to report in full controversial public meetings even if 'vigorous epithets' are used against a public figure . . . The high court said the First Amendment protects news articles even if hot words are used against an individual."

—The Evening Star, May 18, 1970

"The (Supreme Court) decision assured the press and broadcasters they cannot be held for libel for reporting free-swinging debate on public issues . . . The decision went on to say that the First Amendment strictly limits the scope of libel judgments so that the press may freely report issues of community concern without financial worry."

"Montgomery County's Charles Bresler has become an unwitting principal in a Freedom of Information case which will be hailed by many as another long step forward in the continuing fight to maintain the right of citizens to freely speak out."

—Prince Georges Sentinel, May 21, 1970

"The Supreme Court broadened the constitutional defenses of newsmen against libel suits today by ruling that the press cannot be held liable for reporting exaggerated charges leveled against public figures when it is clear that the accusations are 'political hyperbole.' The ruling was another in a series of decisions by the Court in recent years to bolster the news media's First Amendment protections . . . Today's decision placed a constitutional restriction on the traditional legal assumption that a person falsely accused of a crime may recover damages for defamation even without proof that he has suffered monetary loss because of the libel. The opinion concluded that when charges that technically amount to an accusation of crime are made during heated public debate the charges cannot constitutionally be the basis of a libel or slander judgment if it is clear that there was no intention to accuse anyone of criminal conduct."

—New York Times, May 19, 1970

"The United States Supreme Court, in a significant ruling that extends the concept of a free press, has held that newspapers cannot be held guilty of libel for accurately reporting heated debate among public figures on public issue . . . The High Court's elaboration of the First Amendment does not give the press license to slander, smear or libel. It strengthens the right to report accurately what people are saying in a public debate without fear of being hounded by (those) who think they can silence the press by threat of legal action."

—Madison Wisc., Capital Times, May 20, 1970

Gala Dance is Planned For N-R Appeal Fund

A gala dance affair to raise funds for the appeal of the \$17,500 libel judgment against the Greenbelt News Review was approved at last Friday's Freedom of the Press rally in Center School. According to plans announced by subcommittee chairman Edwin Ross, the dance will be held at the Greenbelt Armory on Saturday evening, May 11.

The dance is one of many activities the subcommittee is considering to raise the estimated \$10,000 needed to cover the cost of carrying an appeal to the higher courts.

About 100 persons attending the Friday meeting also voted unanimously to advise the newspaper to file an appeal.

—February 1, 1968

Who's Who in the News Review

(Continued from page one)

staff, who can write, edit, put the paper together, work the "ad desk," and help with business records of the paper as required.

With the *News Review* for 16 years, Barbara Likowski has an eagle eye for errors and an almost photographic memory for what has arrived in the stacks of mail received by the paper each week. Her total recall and attention to detail on Tuesday nights contribute greatly to the paper's accuracy and completeness. She covers occasional city council meetings, does the make-up on many Wednesday nights and often reads page-proofs at the print shop on Thursdays. Another extremely versatile staffer, she can and does fill in for almost any staff job which needs doing.

At the Heart of the Paper

Editor for 15 years, Mary Lou Williamson does some of everything. She solicits advertising throughout the week, edits copy on Tuesday nights, does make-up herself or assists with it every Wednesday night and goes to the print shop to give the paper its final review on Thursdays. She is the one person who knows all jobs and can do any of them while dealing with dozens of callers and constant staff questions in her relaxed and calm manner.

From her 17th floor Bethesda apartment, Elaine Skolnik is the Katherine Graham of the *News Review*. She cut her teeth on the paper by writing the chatty "Our Neighbors" column for almost 20 years. Gradually she became the guru of sewage disposal plants, development, zoning, roads, and numerous other critical public issues. With telephone in hand, she is a relentless factual researcher. Elaine now specializes in residential land development and progress of the Metro subway. Elaine rarely attends meetings but she hobnobs with politicians, developers and their attorneys at social functions in Greenbelt and never hesitates to follow up with tough questions for her stories.

Elaine assumed the presidency of the *News Review* when her late husband, Alfred Skolnik, died in 1977. She stepped down from that position in 1986 to be

able to devote more time to her grandchildren and other pet projects.

Elaine, in her present job as news editor, assigns stories, trains journalism interns and new reporters, calls errant advertisers who are late in paying bills, is usually on hand Tuesday nights, and checks in by phone every Wednesday night (even when she is on vacation) to help decide what goes into the paper and what doesn't. Despite her attempt to reduce her role, Elaine continues to exert a strong influence on all aspects of the paper.

This reporter is a community specialist with Prince Georges County government. I have been with the *News Review* for 21 years and consider myself mostly a writer, preferring feature writing to news. Over the years, I have interviewed a lot of "Greenbelt's Greats," as well as written a number of obituaries on the same. I also do make-up on Wednesday nights as well as work on special issues like this one.

News Review as a Business

Few people understand that though the *News Review* is a volunteer organization which started in someone's living room back in 1937, it nevertheless is a business. Business manager Mary Halford, a Certified Public Accountant, works hard to make sure that the business desk runs smoothly and that the board is supplied with timely financial information. One of her greatest accomplishments in the two years she has been with the paper is the development of a full-fledged business staff. That staff consists of Leo Hool, Lucille Jacoby, Clarice Ollershaw and Connie Davis. Among them, they tally up the advertising inches each week, send out bills, maintain the records, and fill out the tax forms.

Advertising, that life-blood of any newspaper, is managed on Tuesday nights by the ad staff, Joanne Tucker, Adrienne Plater, and Louise Kramer. Joanne has fielded ad calls and solicited ads from forgetful advertisers for the last 12 years. It is her job late on Tuesday night, to total up the inches of advertising and tell Mary Lou how big the paper

can be that week. Most readers don't think about it, but that's the deciding factor each week—the number of inches of advertising determines the number of pages that can be paid for. The make-up staff chooses from the news copy and fits it to the paper's size.

A large, unfilled gap exists on the advertising staff at present. Until his death a few weeks ago, Jake Jacoby acted as the entire ad staff on Monday evenings. He and his work are sorely missed.

Proofreading

Proofreading can make a paper shine or become an object of ridicule. Fortunately, the *News Review* has a core of superior proofreaders, who work Wednesday nights. These include Lekh and Suzanne Batra, Nancy Birner, Jan Brenner, Dorothy Daly, Peggy Hool, Janet James, Bonnie Jenkins, Elizabeth Maffay, Mary Moien, Denise and Gary Peck, Walter Penney, Ruth Powell, Pat Scully, Pearl Siegel, Sandra Smith, Jean Turkiewicz, Dorothy Lauber, Ottilie Van Allen, Peter Van Allen, Marlene Vikor, and Virginia Zanner. Several of these people have been on the *News Review* staff for over 10 years. Some, like Mary Moien and Sandra Smith, are also reporters who write feature articles and cover occasional meetings.

Tuesday nighters, those folks who come out—rain or shine, blizzard or hail storm—to the paper's long-time home in the orange-colored basement office of 15 Parkway to type stories, edit and write headlines include copy readers Jane Jaworski, Betsy Likowski, Martha Kaufman, and Dorrie Bates. Betsy also writes on some zoning and environmental matters and Dorrie does feature stories. Martha writes the popular "Our Neighbors" column and looks after subscriptions.

Jack Brickman, who compiles the "Police Blotter," knows that business from the inside. He is a retired D.C. police precinct captain.

Judy Goldstein has written the *Greenbelt Grab-Bag* for years. She holds the record for longevity in column writing, and her gentle humor has tickled the funny bone of two generations of Greenbelters.

Sid Kastner, Eileen Peterson, Leta Mach, and Steve Galanis (a journalism intern from the

University of Maryland) round out the "stable of reporters," as Al Skolnik used to call them. Leta has also been a Thursday morning proofreader on occasion. We are currently without Thursday morning regular, Art Donn, whose new job and hours compete, Ruth Kastner and Betsy Likowski are now page-proofing on alternate Thursdays.

Putting It All Together

The Wednesday night make-up job—when the *News Review* stories are cut up, headlines pasted on, and all that fits on the pages is placed in its spot alongside the ads—is performed in rotation by Diane Oberg, Barbara and Betsy Likowski, Mary Lou Williamson, this reporter and James Coleman (now on sabbatical because of a job conflict).

Circulation — delivering the paper on time (well, by Friday evening, anyway)—is the job of Mike Jones, who from the depths of his taxicab drops stacks of newspapers on the doorsteps of the carriers within the core of Greenbelt. Outside the core of the city, the newspapers are picked up by representatives of Springhill Lake. Wind-

sor Green, Greenbriar, Greenwood Village and Hunting Ridge, to be delivered to those areas. Approximately 30 boys and girls, ages 8 to 18, deliver the *News Review* weekly. Often this is their very first paying job. And some of them graduate to become full staffers—Allan Stern, who delivered the paper in Lakeside for years is now a Tuesday nighter, typing copy. Close to 1,000 papers are distributed by Joan Neumann to the area's shopping centers, grocery stores and business parks.

The *News Review* has been printed by Allen Printing in Hyattsville for almost 50 years. This family-owned business—three generations working together, is an integral part of the *News Review* operation with its ancient linotype machines and hand-set headlines. New-fangled computers have yet to catch up with the Allens who know more about Greenbelt than most Greenbelters.

It takes a lot of people—and a fair amount of dedication and hard work—to put out a newspaper every week, with never a week missed, for 50 years, that's 2600 issues! Is it any wonder



Chef's Secret

FRESH SEAFOOD

Specializing in Continental Cuisine

LIVE MAINE LOBSTER 1½ LBS. W/CRABMEAT
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FRESH WHOLE BABY SALMON W/CRABMEAT



are taking the best and freshest of local raw material—mainly Seafood—and turning out some superlative dishes." Pastas here—nicely chewy and beautifully sauced—would credit any northern Italian restaurant." the remarkably low prices make this one of the best dining-out values around town."

Richman on Restaurants—Washington Post



Choice Dinners Your Favorite Cocktails
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(301) 345-6101

Monday-Friday Lunch: 11:30-2:30 Saturday Dinner: 4:30-10:30 Sunday Dinner: 4:30-9:30



Greenbelt Lions Club

CHARTERED DECEMBER, 1951

A SINCERE TRIBUTE FROM THE 1987/88

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GREENBELT LIONS CLUB

Congratulations Greenbelt News Review

For 50 Years of Continuous Journalistic Excellence

MEMBERS

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Barry Blechman
Dennis Boles
Duane "Bo" Bowman
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Theodore Coffey
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James R. Craze
Henry Fisher

James Fletcher
Franklin Ford
Thomas Freeman
Myron Greeze
Dan Hamlin
William Hand
Emory Harman
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Rowland Hoke

Harry Irving
Joe Isaacs
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Don Love
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As We See Our Role Our First Birthday A Self Appraisal

On November 24, 1937 the first issue of the COOPERATOR appeared. This, then, is our birthday edition. . . .

The COOPERATOR has grown with the town. How much we think we have improved — that might be immodest for us to say. Newspapers, as well as human beings, not infrequently think better of themselves than others think of them.

Our weaknesses have been largely the result of inexperience. How to do the job in our case was generally learned while doing it. And there is this to remember — that the staff of our paper, all earn their living elsewhere; midnight oil burned in the Cooperator Office has meant no salary for anyone concerned, other than 4 or 5 cents an hour on a few occasions.

Summing up for the past year we can say:

That we never missed an issue.

That we tried to be truthful.

That we generally put out the best paper we could.

And that we wrote as we thought fit.

To past staffs, to those many citizens who worked hard and without fanfare for the existence of a COOPERATOR, our thanks.

To Greenbelt our pledge that we will try to merit its continuing loyalty and confidence.

— November 23, 1938

How We Do It

Last week we received a letter from a new resident in one of the defense homes asking us when the boy was going to collect for the paper. Neighbor, the boy doesn't collect for the Cooperator. It's free to you, one of the few free things in a world of soaring prices and increased taxes.

But you pay for your town paper indirectly through every advertisement published. In a year we average just about enough advertising revenue to cover the printing bill and other costs of publication. The staff is made up your neighbors who contribute their time, from two to ten hours a week. This last year a small surplus was divided among the staff members—the first monetary reward since the paper was started more than four years ago.

(February 6, 1942)

Won't Somebody Come?

A guest editorial by Harry Zubkoff

A few years ago a popular slogan captured everyone's imagination: "What if they threw a war and nobody came?" In a more modest way, the same thing could be said about a newspaper: what if they tried to put out a newspaper and nobody came? More specifically, what if we tried to put out the *Greenbelt News Review* and nobody came? Think about it for a minute.

If nobody came, there would be no *News Review*. If there were no *News Review*, we think this would not be the community that it is. Oh, the city would still be here—but the community, the sense of belonging, the sense of identity, the esprit, the very essence of Greenbelt—all that would no longer exist. Sociologists and urban planners all agree that the community newspaper is the vital force linking the various segments of a disparate urban environment into a cohesive social entity.

So it is with Greenbelt. People tell us that the single most unifying element around which our community has coalesced is the *Greenbelt News Review*. Whether you love it or hate it, whether you believe it does a superb job, an adequate job or a miserable job, is immaterial. Whatever you think of it, it is the indispensable ingredient of the democratic personality known as Greenbelt.

Yet, today, the paper exists on a very fragile foundation. It is published each week by the efforts of a handful of public spirited citizens who cannot be expected to continue to perform forever. Unless more of our residents come forward to join in this common effort, there is a clear and present danger that the paper may not last much longer. Of all the things that could happen to our community, the demise of the *News Review* would be, we think, the most tragic and the most traumatic.

It is not so much a question of money as it is a question of people. Without an infusion of new blood, we cannot continue to function much longer. We need people, desperately, to perform all the sundry tasks associated with the publication of a newspaper—willing to devote one evening per week or a few daytime hours to this public service and who would be willing, over a period of time as they gain experience, gradually to assume a substantial share of the responsibility for this vitally important function. The pay is only nominal but the rewards in terms of self-satisfaction are immeasurable.

So, how about it, friends? If you want to become a part of an essential community effort, stop in at our office any Tuesday evening at 15 Parkway in the basement, or call 441-2662 or 474-6060.

— May 29, 1980

We have heard some criticism recently that the *News Review* has been devoting an undue proportion of its column to the affairs of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. We appreciate comments of this nature, if for no other reason than that they provide us with evidence that people are reading the newspaper. But, more significantly, they make us sit back and reflect on the role of a community newspaper and to write editorials like this which attempt to explain our position.

Historically, we have felt an obligation to cover on a regular basis through our own staff reporters the activities of two major organizations in the city — Greenbelt city council (and city government) and Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

The necessity and desirability of detailed reporting of city council and government activities are self-evident. As for GHI, up until the late 1950's, the residents of GHI comprised over 80 percent of the city's population. Even though this proportion is now down to about one-third, we still feel an obligation to report GHI activities in detail.

The affairs of this housing cooperative are of special interest to its 1,600 families because it as a self-governing organization with many elements of sovereignty that are not too dissimilar from those of city council. This aspect of GHI, as exemplified by its bi-weekly board meetings and annual elections which require an informed membership, is a unique contrast to what is found, say, in the operation of apartment complexes. In our judgment, board and membership actions of GHI warrant regular staff coverage. . . .

— June 25, 1970

We had high expectations! . . . then Reality Set In

Staff Announces

Membership Terms

For 'Cooperator'

Membership qualifications for the Greenbelt Cooperator staff were set up at a staff meeting held last Friday evening in the Cooperator office and methods of accepting or rejecting applications for membership in the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association were discussed.

The following qualifications were agreed upon as necessary for membership:

1. They shall be Greenbelt residents.
2. They shall be members of at least one cooperative.
3. They shall be either experienced in journalism or allied trades or willing to learn.
4. All applicants who were not members previously to incorporation shall serve a six-month probationary period.
5. All memberships shall expire at the end of six months, unless the Board of Directors decides to retain them.
6. Unless an average of two hours' work per week is given, the membership shall not be renewed at the end of six months.
7. Control of membership shall lie with the Board of Directors.

—February 6, 1942

Help Wanted by the News Review

HELP WANTED: Individual with good writing skills needed to cover community activities, meetings, human interest stories, etc., for the *News Review*. Choose your own beat. Hours vary depending on assignment. Benefits: Pride from increased awareness of community endeavors.

WANTED: Individuals with a fine eye for detail and take pride in accuracy. Lots of openings for proofreader at the *News Review*! Two hours, once a month. Wed. nites. You must be able to correct this ad. Benefits: Satisfaction that comes from catching others' mistakes! . . .

WANTED: Make-up Editor and Assistants — 3 to 4 hours. Wed. nite, once a month. at the *News Review*. You just may be cut out for this job!

READ THIS NOW:

Does you sometimes find yourself irritated when newspaper headlines are misleading or do you often correct poor grammar in newspaper articles or are you bothered when someone writes on and on and on and doesn't know when to end a sentence with a period because if you are such a person you could serve as an editor/headline writer for the *Greenbelt News Review*, that is if you have good grammar and punctuation skills and if you can spare the time to read and edit stories to be published by the paper — this is your chance to get involved and try your hand at editing and a good place to start would be with this want ad and just think of the fun and satisfaction that could be gained from becoming part of the *News Review* Editorial Staff!

— Friends of the *Greenbelt News Review*

HELP WANTED: Advertising Clerks needed at the *News Review* to list and review ads for current week and keep records. 2 hrs weekly (Tues. nights). . . .

WANTED: Manager to oversee sales staff. Some commission involved. 2 to 4 hours weekly. . . .

SALES PERSONS: Sales persons needed, must have own transportation, training provided. Call now. Commission. . . .

HELP WANTED: Individual to work with classified section of the *Greenbelt News Review* 1 hr Monday afternoon or night. . . .

News Review Expands

News Review staff members voted to expand their basement offices into the city sewer system Monday night. Annexation by the paper of Greenbelt's lower depths is an example of the "No Rise" concept of low density (low and dense) zoning currently popular with city planners. An ecstatic staff member stated: "The possibilities of underground communication are endless. Now we can dig up all the dirt in town." Plans are afoot to enlarge the "Sour Neighbors" column.

Recruitment problems, which have plagued the *News Review* recently, will probably be eased by the new policies. Although an occasional visitor to the offices, wishing to place a classified ad, is never seen again, staff members vehemently denied reports that such persons were shanghaied into typing Little League baseball scores.

—April Fool, 1965

We're Moving

The *News Review* will move its quarters this week from the basement of 15 Parkway to the 16th floor of the Maryland Trade Center.

— April Fool Issue, 1982

Examination Time

Rumors have been going around Greenbelt this past week to the effect that the Cooperator is in difficulty. This is to assure our readers that the rumors are perfectly true.

However, we do not feel that this is the time to appeal to our friends and neighbors for support — not in a financial sense, anyhow. We do, nevertheless, want the community's help in an important crisis.

The Cooperator is going through a period of self-examination. We have agreed to sit down with ourselves and determine whether the course we have followed in past weeks is a proper one. We want, and will welcome, the opinions of Greenbelt Citizens to help us in this determination. . . .

— May 17, 1951

For Love and Money

Prospects of continuing our community newspaper have brightened considerably. We have been assured by several major organizations in the city that we will receive increased advertising. Their response to our plight has been a warm and gratifying experience to the staff of this newspaper and has renewed our faith in the worthiness of our task. . . .

— January 20, 1955

The Unthinkable

The *News Review* has not failed to publish even one of its weekly issues in the more than 44 years of its existence. But yesterday morning we were hit by one of life's unthinkables, and in the first panic it seemed we might have nothing / absolutely nothing — to print this week.

The ritual is that every Tuesday evening all the copy for that week's issue is "put to bed" ready for printing. Wednesday morning a community volunteer takes the entire bundle, in a brown vinyl briefcase, to the printshop in Hyattsville. Our conscientious courier for the past year has been a young man who makes the trip on motorcycle. Yesterday morning he set out as usual, with full briefcase strapped on behind him — and then, the unthinkable happened.

Southbound on Kenilworth Avenue, in rush-hour traffic, the briefcase fell off. By the time our courier could get turned around, the briefcase, and its contents, had disappeared. Despite a day of searches along Kenilworth's shoulders, phone calls to area police jurisdictions and schools, and radio appeals for return of the lost material, by late last night the briefcase and its contents were still missing.

All day yesterday the few available members of our volunteer staff worked hurriedly to reconstruct as much as possible of the missing material, and our printer worked late to set the copy and ads. The result is not the paper we had planned. Perhaps the most that can be said is that we haven't let the *News Review's* record of continuous publication be broken.

We apologize to any of our contributors, our advertisers, or our readers who are inconvenienced in any way as a result of . . . the unthinkable!

— March 25, 1982

Don't Kick a Dead Horse

This newspaper reminds us of Sarah Barnhardt, the great actress who made about a dozen "farewell" tours before she finally decided to throw in the towel.

The *News Review* has been on its death-bed for so long that the springs are beginning to creak slightly . . .

The *News-Review* (nee *The Cooperator*) was a pretty good paper in its day. There was a large and energetic staff and they took pride in turning out a complete and fair-minded newspaper. But the paper has been dying for a long time. It started to die the very day someone on the staff started to slant the news, color the news, favor one organization, ridicule another, give one side, ignore the other. The staff gave lip service to the traditional standards of fair play in journalism, but what came out was petty bickering, spiteful digs, amateurish prejudice, intentional omissions, and bias between the lines.

The staff killed this paper, more so than the people of Greenbelt. It killed it a little by destroying its reputation when it changed the name of the paper after a ridiculously unfair poll in which the original name received ten times as many votes as any other name. But, by some unexplained and tortured logic, it was explained that "more people wanted a different name" and it was changed.

It killed it a little with the impractical and ill-fated subscription plan, under which three-quarters of Greenbelt lost sight of the paper, and, consequently, lost interest in it. It killed it a little by antagonizing the largest commercial organization in town, the same organization that the *News Review* has been asking for financial aid in recent weeks. It killed it, little by little, with an almost methodical sureness for the lethal tactics, one after another, that chopped the paper down, as if by some horrible rehearsal.

So the paper keeps on dying, issue after issue. The crepe is hung, the hearse is ready, but nobody cares.

Stop kicking the dead horse.

— February 3, 1955

Wanted: Transfusion (Printer's Ink)

When you're still sleepy at three in the afternoon because of lack of help kept you up till three that morning putting out a newspaper, and you hear someone in the food store say, "You can't work on the COOPERATOR unless you're one of the 'inner circle'"; when an already overworked reporter has to take over the work of publicity director for an organization in order to get news from the outfit, then hears that "you can't get a story in the COOPERATOR"; it's then that you almost — but never quite, thank heavens — feel that the whole thing just isn't worth it.

Please, all of you who think we'd rather work until three a.m. than have you help us get through at a reasonable hour, or who think you have to have had years of experience in order to qualify as a COOPERATOR worker — forget it!

If you're interested in what goes on in this town, want to help tell others about, and are willing to devote a few hours a week to that end — get in touch with any of our staff members, whose names are listed above on the masthead.

We need reporters and "dirty workers". Everyone knows what a reporter is: he's the guy that works and slaves for five reasons — what, where, when, why, and who — only have it all torn apart by the copy reader, who is the guy that goes through life with a lemon peel in his mouth, a pair of 24 inch scissors in his left hand and a 55 millimeter soft lead pencil in his right. His single purpose in life is to make reporters wonder "what's the use."

Then we have the headline writer, who thinks of how many words can fit in 2 lines of twenty four characters each so that they will have nothing at all to do with the story.

Maybe more than anything else, we need typists. Actually, that's the only job that requires any prior experience.

Drop around to our office in the basement of 8 Parkway. We'll be glad to see you.

— June 24, 1948

Editor's Note: We're now at 15 Parkway and we will still be glad to see you.



The *News Review* editorial staff at work on a Tuesday night. From left: Diane Oberg, Betsy Likowski, Virginia Beauchamp, Mary Lou Williamson, Bill Rowland, and Sid Kastner. — October 1985

On Becoming Editor

"I didn't know the first thing about running a paper," said former *News Review* editor Harry Zubkoff. "I'd been dropping in at the *News Review* for a couple of months when the editor resigned, and somehow I found myself in charge. Probably, because everyone else knew better. Well, the first Tuesday night I came down to the office I discovered that nobody—but nobody — had showed up. Naturally, this made me feel a little insecure, so I telephoned the editor. She said, 'Gee, I wish I could help you but, ha ha. I'm going out.'"

"So I worked till 3 a.m. Wednesday night again I worked till 3 a.m. Thursday the paper came out. Great! Thursday night I got a call from the printer that started off like this: 'Well, Zubkoff, I understand you're the new editor. Congratulations! When are you going to pay the thousand dollars you owe me?'"

"But things moved fast in the next few days. For instance, the telephone company removed our phone because we were three months behind in our bill. Also, all the desks and typewriters were moved out of the office because PHA (the government agency then running Greenbelt), who had loaned them to us, needed them back."

But Harry Zubkoff survived these crises, and so did the paper. He served as Editor-in-Chief for a total of seven years. Russ Greenbaum, the present editor, once remarked reminiscently, "I'll never forget the look on Harry's face when he discovered I was actually willing to take the thing off his hands. He seemed stunned—he couldn't believe it was real."

(The Name is Familiar, by Dorothy Sucher)
—December 7, 1950



Ottilie Van Allen and Peggy Hool read galley proofs for errors down at the office on Wednesday night while the paper is being made up. — July 1985



Board president Elaine Skolnik checks facts with copy editor Sandra Barnes on a typical Tuesday night. — July 1985

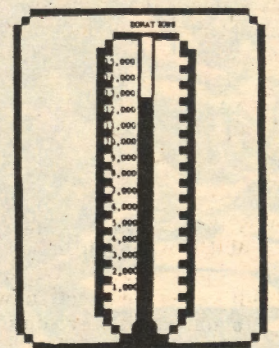
June Drive Seeks Volunteers, Funds to Aid News Review

The "Friends of the Greenbelt *News Review*" announced in the May 30 issue of the *News Review* that they would conduct a search for volunteers and funds for the 48 year-old newspaper throughout the month of June. "The *News Review* must continue publishing," insisted David Lane, president of the newly-formed steering committee. . . .

Last March the Board of Directors of the *News Review* called on the city's homeowners and ten-

ant associations for help. "Our staff is so busy publishing the newspaper each week that we cannot address the problems of finding volunteers and raising money. If Greenbelters are to continue to know what goes on in their city, the *News Review*—we—desperately need your help." Elaine Skolnik, president of the board told the 25 representatives present from all parts of the city. . . .

—May 30, 1985



Computer Graphic
Designed by David Erickson
5th Grader at Center School

Update on Fund Drive
The Friends of the Greenbelt *News Review* report that to date the fund drive has collected \$12,832 from 611 donors, and has received 82 volunteers.

Greenbelt Team Had Smashing Good Time!

by Sandra Barnes

Euphoria overcame the Greenbelt team following their presentation at the All-America Cities competition on Saturday, November 16, in Cincinnati, Ohio. A month of intense preparation culminated in a ten-minute appearance before the All-America Cities jury to describe the citizen efforts that had resulted in significant community-wide achievements. The competition is sponsored by The National Municipal League and USA Today. Ten cities will be selected to receive the award of All-America City with winners to be announced in the spring.

"It rained during the entire weekend until Greenbelt made its presentation and then the sun came out," said an elated Micki Weidenfeld.

Basking in the glow of their performance, the presentation team—Tom Renahan, Joe Timer, Mayor Weidenfeld, Jerry Gough and Mary Lou Williamson—recalled their countless hours of practice over the past week to stay within the ten-minute time limit, to correlate their slides with their words, to introduce movements to gain the attention of the jury.

With his opening remarks, Mayor Weidenfeld held up a "Greenbelt Is Great" T-shirt. "T-shirts like these are worn by over 1,000 citizens in Greenbelt," he said. The jury's eyes

turned from the slide presentation to the speaker.

"Gil set the tone with the T-shirt," Jerry Gough commented. "You can't take away that personal touch."

"How many mayors in America would hold up a T-shirt" at such a solemn occasion, exclaimed Renahan.

Weidenfeld also set the theme of the presentation, "A Tradition of Citizen Action," when he reminisced that one year the council had to declare a moratorium on attending meetings so that "citizens could spend time with their families."

"When I read that in the application, I thought you were kidding," commented jury chairman William Quinn, former governor of Hawaii. "It's true," Weidenfeld asserted.

Relishing that moment later on, Weidenfeld exclaimed, "It was a very friendly interruption."

Although many citizen action projects were briefly cited in the city's application to become an All America City, three projects comprised the heart of the application. There were the Greenbelt News Review Volunteer and Fund Drive, the repurchase of the Co-op Supermarket, and the annexation of Hunting Ridge Condominiums.

Mary Lou William, News Review editor, recalled the citizen campaign to raise \$15,000 and gain 30 new staff members for the financially strapped volunteer newspaper.

What was the effect of the citizens to purchase the

News Review on the ability of Co-op?" one judge asked. "By making sure that the story was always on the front page, we kept the issue before the citizens. We felt it was an important issue for the community and it needed resolution."

Timer and Renahan recounted their campaigns of forming the Co-op and annexing Hunting Ridge. Jerry Gough summed up the presentation by touching on many of the citizen action activities, including the 50th Anniversary Committee and the annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

Highlight

The highlight of the presentation occurred when one of the judges asked if a committee had been formed to work on the presentation.

"Absolutely," Gough replied. "In fact we call ourselves 'Mary Lou and the Four Rhythm Boys,'" he joked, bringing laughter from jury and audience alike.

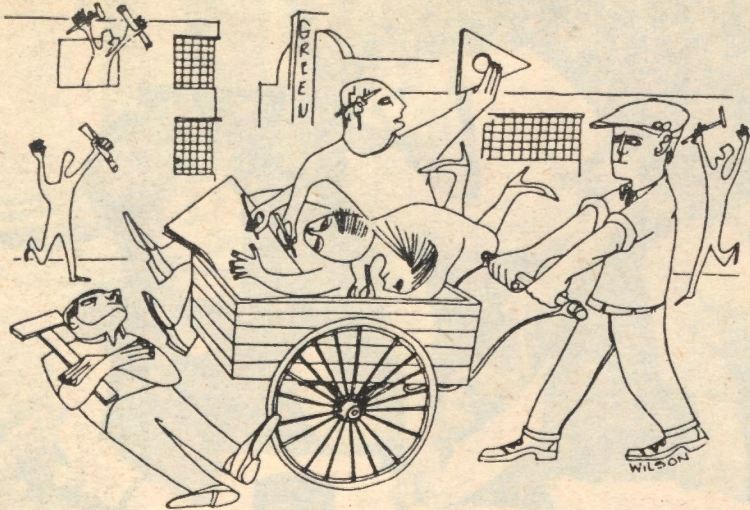
A beaming City Manager Jim Giese also breathed a sigh of relief when the presentation was over. "It's nice to know you're not committed to this project for the rest of your life," he said, recalling what had been a hectic month for all involved.

NEWS REVIEW EDITORS 1937 - 1987

Louis Bessemer
William R. Poole
Walter R. Volckhausen
Howard C. Custer
Aaron Chinitz
(George A. Warner - coeditor)
Donald H. Cooper
Lillian Schwartz
Dorothea Ford
Francis Fosnight
Donald H. Cooper
Waldo Mott
Don O'Reilly
Anne Hull
Eleanor Ritchie
Ralph G. Miller
Edith Nicholas
Anne Hull
Sally Meredith
Edward Meredith
Isadore J. Parker
Sally Meredith
Harry M. Zubkoff
Janice Solet
Ralph G. Miller
Bernard Krug
Harry M. Zubkoff
Russell S. Greenbaum
Harry M. Zubkoff
Isadore J. Parker
Harry M. Zubkoff
Russell S. Greenbaum
Virginia Beauchamp
Russell S. Greenbaum
Dorothy Sucher
Mary Lou Williamson
Dorothy Sucher
Mary Lou Williamson
Mary Smith Granofsky
Mary Lou Williamson

November 1937 - December 1937
January 1938 - February 1938
March 1938 - June 1938
July 1938 - August 1938
September 1938 - August 1939
February 1939 - June 1939
September 1939 - May 1940
May 1940 - August 1940
August 1940 - November 1940
November 1940 - June 1942
June 1942 - February 1943
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October 1948 - June 1949
June 1949 - December 1949
January 1950 - July 1950
July 1950 - May 1952
May 1952 - October 1952
December 1952 - March 1953
April 1953 - October 1953
October 1953 - October 1954
October 1954 - January 1955
March 1955 - September 1955
October 1955 - September 1956
October 1956 - February 1960
February 1960 - May 1962
June 1962 - December 1962
January 1963 - June 1963
July 1963 - September 1963
February 1964 - October 1964
November 1964 - December 1965
January 1966 - February 1967
March 1967 - October 1972
November 1972 -

What is a Charrette? Or is It a Charette?



—drawing by Forrest Wilson
— May 23, 1985



Paying the bills and sending out the invoices keeps the News Review healthy according to Mary Halford, business manager. In the background are Barbara Likowski, Elaine Skolnik and Mary Lou Williamson. — photo by J. Henson, July 25, 1985

News Review Staff, October 1962



The News Review staff in October 1962. Seated, from left to right, Bernice Kastner, Virginia Beauchamp, Al Skolnik, Harry Zubkoff, and Bess Halperin. Standing, left to right, Dorothy White, Sid Kastner, Dorothy Sucher, Mary Lou Williamson, Margaret Thompson, Elaine Skolnik, Russ Greenbaum, Thea Lovell, Vic Fisher, Rita Fisher, and Isadore Parker.



Since the sale of Greenbelt by the federal government, the newspaper office has been located in the basement of 15 Parkway in the meter room. The above photo, taken in 1968, is one of several submitted a few years ago in the "ugliest office" contest. We lost. The 1985 fund drive provided the opportunity to acquire newer chairs, tables, and even typewriters. — photo by George Kalec



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE

Mary Lou Williamson Named Outstanding Citizen in 1985

by Sandra Barnes

Few perhaps realize the day-in and day-out efforts put forth by a small number of News Review staff volunteers to print an eight to sixteen-page paper each week. Much of the responsibility and the work rests with its editor, Mary Lou Williamson. It is often a 40-hour or more a week job. She attends to numerous business details involving advertising. She can often be seen picking up ads at the Co-op and at Greenway Center. She works Monday and Tuesday nights at the News Review office putting the advertising and copy together for each week's issue. On Wednesday night, she is helping with page layout and making those last-minute critical decisions on what goes in the paper that week. On Thursday she is at the print shop proofreading. And "free" moments in between she may be seen at the City Council meeting taking notes or saying to the assigned reporter, "I just came because I was interested in what's going on."

Why She Does It

Why does she work so hard on the News Review? "I come from a family tradition of community giving," she commented. "I was very much influenced by those in my family who gave to the community in which they lived."

And as a student, she says, she enjoyed the newspaper more than anything else. She was editor of her junior high school sports page and business manager of her college newspaper "because there were no men" at the women's college.

"I enjoy what I do. I don't feel a strong need to earn money. I've been doing it for so long, it would be difficult to change." Moreover, she likes the autonomy of the News Review. . . .

As she told a reporter for the Washington Post recently, "In a way, a newspaper has as much

power as a City Council member. Somebody once asked me to run for City Council and I said 'I don't need to. I work for the News Review.'"

Greenbelt Chauvinist

Not only is Mary Lou committed to the News Review but she also loves Greenbelt. Someone once called her "a Greenbelt chauvinist," which was meant to be derogatory, she thinks. But to Mary Lou it was a compliment. "I can't see myself living any place else. It's a marvelous place to raise a family. . . .

After twenty-three years on the News Review, with time off every now and then in the early years for maternity leave, Mary Lou still gets excited on Thursday nights when the paper comes out. "I really look forward to seeing it. I get a lot of pleasure from seeing it."

Those who meet Mary Lou Williamson cannot help being impressed with her quiet assurance, her warmth, her humor and her strength. Few have seen her become angry over the years, as she deals with complex issues and irate citizens. She has a unique gift of being able to see all sides of an issue, even when some of the facts may be outrageous and ones with which she does not personally agree. Nevertheless she rarely loses her temper. "I prefer to get the job done," she reasons, "not waste time being angry."

Another unique quality is her ability to manage volunteers. "You have to be able to create a situation that works for other people," she comments. "You can't tell a volunteer 'no' or you may never see him again. Flexibility and willingness to work with people of many different viewpoints are among her most striking qualities."

Surprised

With characteristic modesty, she never expected to be named Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen. — September, 1985

NIGHT SCHOOL CLASSES

Apart from its crises and excitements, the News Review also has known moments of happiness and achievement. Such a moment occurred one Tuesday night, when Rita Fisher brought a bottle of pink champagne to our basement office and invited everyone present to join in celebration of her raise in grade. You wonder what this has to do with our newspaper? Here is why - in Rita's own words, as they appeared in the News Review:

I've been going to night school for over eight years without really knowing it. And I have been doing lots of homework in the daytime, without realizing it. And I have enjoyed every minute of it. Now, the "education" I received has finally paid off. Today I received notice that I have qualified for a position with the U.S. Government through the Federal Service Entrance Exam (FSEE).

When I offered my services in any way possible to work with the Greenbelt News Review over eight years ago, and was asked if I had any previous experience in newspaper work, I

didn't have much to offer but my willingness. So I went to work.

It took a while for me to meet the regular Tuesday night crew because I started as a proofreader, working silently many, many Wednesday nights with Editor Harry Zubkoff. I can remember how quiet Harry's house was. While I sat reading over the printer's galleys for errors, Harry would be cutting up another set of galleys, measuring space needed for the ads and then setting them up on dummy sheets. I could then offer my services to help scotch-tape everything together.

The Urge to Write

Eventually, the writing bug hit me. Mind you, I am only a high school graduate with no formal training in journalism. But my words in print were accepted and I was encouraged to do more. To this day, covering a city council or GHI meeting scares me to pieces but I am proud to do it.

There undoubtedly are many residents of Greenbelt who might have wanted to write for the News Review but feel that they are not good enough. I dare you to try. The encouragement you will receive is very rewarding. And frankly, the Tuesday night sessions down at the office at 15 Parkway are the most exciting part of it all. Where else can you feel the pulse of

the city but in a newspaper office? And the News Review on Tuesday nights is really jumping.

Credit for N-R Work

Recently, a program was started at the Civil Service Commission to explore the possibilities of promotions for employees in lower grades through the guidance of personnel counselors. In discussing my background with one of these persons (I am a GS-4), she advised me to take the FSEE exam and use my experience on the News Review as a basis for qualification. I passed the written exam, submitted my application with a resume of my experience with the News Review which by the way equalled the necessary three years of regular full time experience and today, July 12, 1966, I was notified that I am qualified. The nicest part is that there is a job waiting for me. All I needed was the qualification and now I have it.

So, I feel that I have been furthering my education for the last eight years. I am looking forward to another eight years, but from now on I'm taking a postgraduate course at the News Review College of News and Knowledge. Anyone care to enroll? Come down to 15 Parkway on Tuesday night and meet the Faculty.

—July 21, 1966



Twelve of Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizens line up in the order of their reign (from top left): Sandra Barnes, this year's choice; David Lange, 1986; Mary Lou Williamson, 1985; Jose Morales, 1984; Albert Herling, 1983; (front row from left):

Clara Brandt, 1980; Ralph Noble, 1979; Leo Gerton, 1977; Rev. Kenneth Buker, Sr., 1976; Henry Fisher, 1975; Elaine Skolnik, 1974; and Al Cousin, 1973.

—photo by J. Henson



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Reflections and Reminiscences

by Harry Zubkoff

It is a symptom of mankind's short-sightedness that we seldom recognize the true stature and worth of the giants among us until they are gone. So it is with Al Skolnik. Though he received some measure of recognition while he was here, it was not nearly so much as he deserved. The high regard in which he was held found some expression in the community's mass attendance at his funeral Sunday morning, and in the moving eulogy so eloquently voiced by Rabbi Berger. But much remains to be said. We are not yet finished with Al Skolnik; more to the point, he is not finished with us. His presence, his influence, will continue to touch all of us, felt not only by those who were close to him, but by the entire community he loved and served so well.

Of course, he never realized the impact of his presence on the community. I remember the overwhelming support the people showed him when he and the *News Review* were sued for libel. Yet, with characteristic modesty, he preferred to believe that we were fighting solely for a principle—freedom of the press. He would not accept the fact that we were just as deeply committed to supporting him personally. Yet, he was the catalyst around whom the support was rallied and upon whose courage and steadfastness that most precious of American freedoms was extended and strengthened. I can see him now, in the aftermath of that oh-so-sweet Supreme Court decision, declaring that it was a victory for principle.

"But Al," I said, "It was as much a victory for you personally."

"Me?" he said, a look of genuine bewilderment on his face. "But I didn't have anything to do with it. I was just incidental."

Banquet

When we held that grand banquet a year or two afterwards, it was billed as a tribute to Roger Clark, the defense attorney who had carried the case all the way to the Supreme Court and ultimate victory. In reality, though, it was a tribute to Al and Elaine, who had carried the heavy weight of responsibility during the years of trial and trouble. It represented a massive outpouring of warmth, good will and gratitude for their total commitment to the service of their community. We tried to persuade Al, beforehand, that he should get double billing with the attorney as the guests of honor, but he wouldn't hear of it.

"I don't want anything to detract from the tribute we're paying Roger," he declared flatly. "This should be his night."

But despite his protestations, the community paid tribute to him that night anyway. And he enjoyed it. I have never seen him grin so broadly or so continuously. He positively beamed. He was jovial. And when the staff of the *News Review* presented him with an electric typewriter, he accepted it gracefully and cheerfully. But afterwards, just to keep his record intact, he said: "You shouldn't have done it."

Like I said, incorrigible!

Joins *News Review*

I felt some sense of responsibility for Al, since I had recruited him to work on the *News Review*. At least, I persuaded Elaine to charm him into joining the staff and, as everyone knows, Elaine has the talent to do just that. Of course, we had to wait a few years, until he completed the requirements for his Ph.D., but he finally joined the staff and the rest is history. I wish I could take some credit for the enormous contribution he and the newspaper subsequently made to the community, but he did it on his own. Anyway, when Al joined the staff, I felt obligated to pass my wisdom and experience along.

"Al," I would say, "a newspaper is not obligated to be fair or objective. It is obligated only to present the facts in its news columns, but it can be as unfair or as prejudiced as it wishes in its editorials."

"Everybody and every side deserves equal consideration," he would stubbornly insist.

"Not in editorials," I would say. "Editorials can and do take clear, unequivocal positions, either for or against any given proposition, without regard to the opposing views held by others."

"Greenbelt deserves better than that," he declared. "We ought to show the merits of all opposing viewpoints so that people can make up their own minds."

"Al," I said, defeated, "you are exasperating."

Influence on Community

In essence, Al was an observer and reporter, rather than a direct participant in the affairs of the city. I have no doubt at all that he could have been elected to any public office, had he so desired, but he preferred to remain in the background. He was not a public person; indeed, he was basically shy and reserved, a man who felt more at ease behind the scenes. Yet, he has been as instrumental in shaping



Mayor Francis W. White presents the Resolution of the City Council congratulating the *News Review* on its 25th anniversary to Editor Virginia Beauchamp and President Al Skolnik at the *News Review* banquet held at the American Legion Post 136.

—photo by George Hall, December 1962

the nature and destiny of Greenbelt as any elected official in the history of the community. The many background discussions he had with community leaders, and the suggestions and quiet recommendations he made at countless social gatherings, had a way of emerging later on as officially sanctioned policies and programs.

The Movie Critic!

The many social evenings we shared, say for dinner and a movie were illuminating. Al's orderly mind would not tolerate illogic, a quality that Hollywood's movies seem to cherish. Invariably, as we emerged from a thrilling and entertaining whodunit film, Al would start dissecting it.

"Al," I would say, "you are a born critic."

"It's easy to criticize," he once said thoughtfully. "The problem is to create—to build instead of to tear down."

A Summing-up

And in a very real way, this is what Al's life was all about. He brought a measure of order and humanitarian perspective to a sometimes chaotic public environment. He brought a measure of sanity and rational analysis to the scrutiny of public issues. But most of all, by virtue of the active role he played on the *News Review*, he made the newspaper the kind of all-pervasive, unifying influence that makes a community out of a development, and gives its people a sense of belonging and sharing and togetherness. He left his corner of the world a better place than he found it, and that's not a bad epitaph for any man.

I can see him now, scanning these pages coming out of the typewriter, as on so many previous occasions, and frowning in concentration as he mentally rejects clause after clause.

"Sounds kind of pompous, doesn't it?" he would ask mildly.

Like I said, he was incorrigible, a challenging, exasperating, infuriating man, and—oh, dear God—how we loved and respected and admired him. The sense of loss will be with us always, but for myself, I shall always be thankful for the years of friendship we experienced together and for the memories we accumulated. For Elaine and his family, no mere words can lessen their grief, but perhaps they can take some small solace in the knowledge that so many, many of us share it with them.

—March 17, 1977

Remembering Al Skolnik - - His Contributions to Greenbelt

by Sandra Barnes

Rarely does a person come along who, without being an elected official or an employee of a governmental body, influences nearly every important activity in a community. Alfred M. Skolnik, president of the *Greenbelt News Review* for 18 years, was such a person. Al died suddenly of a heart attack in March of this year.

As a reporter, Al exhibited his own personal characteristics: an analytical style which stripped away at the extraneous to get to the basic issues. Former editor and long-time friend, Harry Zubkoff believes "He brought to his reports a measure of objectivity, precision and coherence which added a dimension to the public understanding of public issues . . ."

But Al was not only a reporter. When he covered a city council meeting, he often injected his own comments on affairs of the city. His was a strong voice in urging acquisition of parkland and major capital improvements, community planning and controlled growth. And council members listened to his views — not just because they found their way into the editorials of the *News Review* — but because of, as city manager James Giese expressed it, "his good judgment."

One frequently saw Al stand up at a council meeting, his high-pitched voice bursting with impatience when members strayed from the basic issues as he saw them, "You shouldn't worry about that," he would lecture; "let the city manager take care of it." In this way also, he expressed his strong support for the council-manager form of government.

Al's influence on the city was more low-keyed than his influence in GHI policy matters. . . . One never found Al attending pre-election GHI strategy meetings or actively campaigning to get out the vote, but he was always involved . . . Beginning in the late 1950's in one way or another, he participated in all important GHI policy decisions.

The tersely-worded editorials printed in the *News Review* for 20 years exemplified both Al's writing style and his character. In one or two short paragraphs, he identified the issues and presented the paper's viewpoint.

Sacrifice

One cannot begin to relate what the four-year (1966-1970) two million dollar libel suit against the *News Review* and the Skolniks meant to their personal life. . . . But, in "reaffirming the freedom of the press," Al's long-time friend, Charlie Schwan recalled, "the Skolnik family had to sacrifice for the rest of us . . . The libel suit dragged on for so long, that I almost forgot that Al smiled," Schwan reflected.

Besides the city council and GHI affairs, Al was devoted to the bi-monthly duplicate bridge games, now at the Youth Center. For many years, he directed these Friday night games. But, often, he himself did not play; he held himself in reserve to play only if someone else showed up without a partner.

News Review

Without question, the *News Review* was Al's passion. "He was the single thread of continuity which kept the paper not merely alive, but thriving for two decades," Zubkoff stated. He devoted nearly every evening and many week-ends to the myriad tasks necessary to the publication of the newspaper. . . . Al and Elaine Skolnik were selected "Outstanding Citizens" in 1974 by the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee. And Al, though he surely would not have sought the title, "enjoyed recognition," said Charlie Schwan.

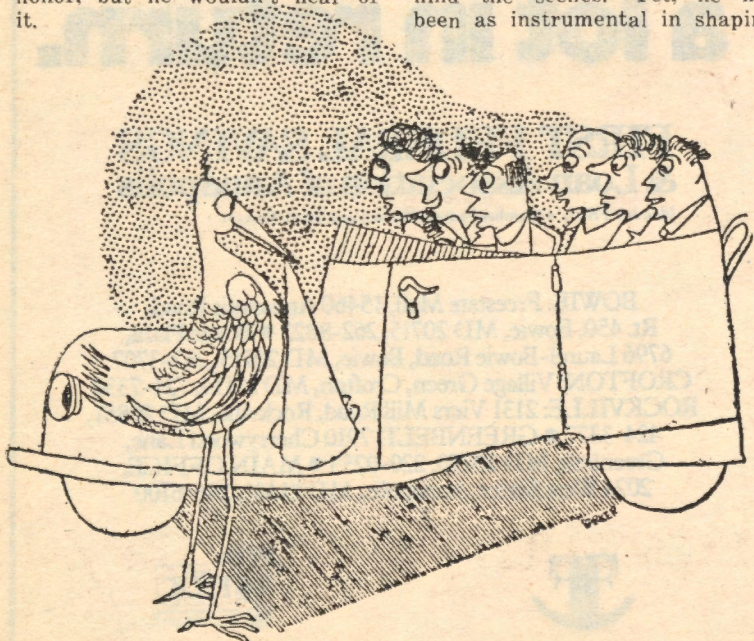
Zubkoff quotes Thomas Jefferson who wrote, "This is man's highest calling, for the existence of democracy depends on an informed citizenry," and Al devoted a good part of his life to that cause. Though he is gone, the *News Review* and the city have been forever shaped and colored by his presence.

— November, 1977

JUST ASK

The proposal made by the new mayor at Monday night's council meeting that another newspaper be started in Greenbelt to give proper coverage to town activities was received with gleeful approval by the Cooperator staff Tuesday night, and gave rise to a lot of wishful thinking about how much easier a reporter's lot would be if there were some other sheet to take over a part of the burden. The responsibility of giving unbiased news coverage to a one-paper town gets to be an awful strain sometimes.

(October 12, 1945)



STORK: Is this the car pool to Greenbelt?

My Town

by Russ Greenbaum

From time to time this column will offer helpful hints to newcomers to Greenbelt. This week I will toss out a few tips on how to be top dog—in any of the numerous organizations that make life exciting here. I assume, of course, that the fact that you've moved here means you're anxious to join an organization and that you did not come here to be alone. This is the wrong place for isolationists—but a haven for those who want to be gregarious without being nefarious. In fact, GVHC (or is it GHI now) might do well to advertise their homes in the following manner: "Are you lonely? Art you looking for companionship? Do you want someone around who will listen sympathetically while you complain what a louse your husband is? Do you want to feel important by finding out that people are gossiping about you? Then come to Greenbelt where there's no business like your business!"

Actually, one of the main reasons that people join organizations is that the meetings are the best places to pick up the latest dirt. Everyone here knows everyone else because it's the same people who join all the various activities. In the discussions only first names are used so it sometimes takes weeks before a newcomer can fully identify his colleagues. (This, I think, may be a carefully calculated policy.)

But I disagree. (This always happens when I eat fried oysters). The question before the house is how do you get in the swim in Greenbelt—or, to put it another way, how do you get to be a civic leader before people find that you're all wet. We take a purely mythical organization—the Greenbelt Residents Interested in Promoting Esthetic Relaxation and Socializing (GRIPERS). Let us say you want to become chairman of this new group. (After you've lived here a while, you'll know better than to be a chairman of anything. You'll learn to maneuver for the post of vice-chairman, which identifies you as a big shot in the organization without having to do any work). The first thing you do is to arrive at the meeting on time. Since hardly anyone else will be there, you will stand out immediately. People will also know that you're a newcomer, which marks you as "new blood." This does not mean the oldtimers have "old blood!" They just have tired blood.

Before the meeting begins, you circulate around and ask pointed questions about what the purpose of the organization is. No one will be able to tell you but you will be marked down as a person who asks intelligent questions. When the discussion begins, say nothing for the first half hour but nod your head sagely and vigorously when key people make resounding statements. You might take notes of all the points that are made which seem to meet with approval. Then at the appropriate moment you arise and abashedly ask, as a newcomer, if you might make a few suggestions. Reading from your notes (which shows that you're a careful thinker) you then propose in summary what has been said by everyone else. Give credit to someone else for at least one of the ideas, and everyone will assume the rest are all yours. Your election is automatic.

The ultimate goal, of course,

Greenbelt Grabbag

by Punchin' Judy

Seasons Greetings, Greenbelt dear,
Have a wonderful New Year.
We wish to you in sixty-six,
Preponderance of treats over tricks.

A Master Plan we hope for you
That lets a little green peak through.
May builders come with less intensity
And grant to you, we hope, low density.

As for traffic jams, may you have none.
But for a traffic light, you know which one.
We hope for zoning that is not too commercial,
And a high school site that is not too controversial.

Your library building, may it really come true,
If not right now, in a year or two.
May the city officials be guided to act,
To our advantage in theory and fact.

Let your residents, Greenbelt, feel happy and proud,
May you as a city, stand out from the crowd,
May your citizens, but not all your buildings, stand tall,
Happy New Year to you, Happy New Year to all.

— December 30, 1965



Volume 1 Number 5

If Greenbelt isn't a heaven on earth (and don't get me wrong, I don't claim it is) it is a heaven from the hells that are on earth—in Europe and Asia, and even in our own country.

Coming home from our jobs to the comfort and beauty and healthfulness that is here, it is hard to realize the misery that is abounding elsewhere.

The headlines and the pictures can easily seem to be about things very remote from us.

However, we can't help but be impressed with our good fortune, and we must be filled with determination to preserve it, and to share it with all others possible.

The fact is that Greenbelt was created as an answer to the problem that is causing the world's present misery. It is an effort to spread the advantages gained by modern machinery and modern knowledge to all the people.

We must make our community successful that it will be an effective blow, not a help, to those who would create misery for their own selfish ends.

That calls for serious thinking and earnest effort from us all.

Howard C. Custer
—October 20, 1938

is to get elected to the city council or the housing corporation (what is their name now?) board of directors. Then you get paid for doing what comes naturally.

—June 20, 1957

CINEMATTERS

by I. J. Parker

It is apparent to anyone riding around Greenbelt lately that our "skyline" has changed considerably. I mean the television aerials that have appeared almost overnight in such clusters. Television has brought with it a whole new way of life as anyone fortunate enough to own a television set can testify.

First, getting accustomed to viewing television in your own home requires some adjustment. One friend, so long in the habit of watching the fights on the set in his favorite bar, can only watch his own set by standing at right angles to the set, twisting his neck and putting one foot up on the first shelf of his bookcase.

One family uses the set as an inducement for getting the children to eat their dinners. What Gesell couldn't do, "Howdy Doo-dy" did!

Another friend reports that he lived in his court for a year and never met any of his neighbors. After acquiring a television set, he gave up using Mum, quit reading Dale Carnegie and discarded his file of Henny Youngman jokes. His house is now jammed every night with neighbors dropping in to see his set.

The few programs I have been able to view (due to the kindness of a friendly neighbor) have been quite enlightening. Vaudeville has returned! Back from the grave have come the juggling acts, the acrobats, the comedy routines, and the magician. It is a sweet revenge. Movies killed vaudeville, and vaudeville in the armor of television is slowly gaining strength and soon will prove the medium that will put movies as we know them today to a peaceful rest.

—January 20, 1949

The Way I See It

by Charles F. Schwan

If a fledgling columnist may begin his career with a boast, then I am about to boast.

Recently I was fortunate enough to be able to move into Green Ridge House. It is a fine facility that even my brief experience persuades me justifies the praise that its elderly or infirm residents have heaped upon it.

The City Council plays a relatively small role in planning and constructing most projects. The City Manager and other staff members perform the tasks necessary to erect a Springhill Lake Recreation Center or an addition to the Municipal Building. In the case of Green Ridge House, however, Council participated actively in determining what should be included for residents' safety, comfort and convenience. Make no mistake. Most of the credit for the decisions made belongs to the City Manager, James K. Giese; to the former Assistant City Manager, Dennis Piendak; and to the late Buddy Attick, who was Director of Public Works; to their associates and an advisory committee of citizens. A good share, nevertheless, can be claimed by the Council sitting at that time.

My boast? I was a member of Council when Green Ridge House was planned and built.

—July 14, 1983

Poetry Column

by Dorothy Sucher

Go to sleep, my pet, my pretty,
Mamma is a member of the Telephone Committee.

We've formed a coalition
To crush the opposition

By signing a petition
Defining our position . . .
Hush, child, hush

Close your eyes, lamb, don't you pout

Mama's got a meeting and the time is running out.

We plan a demonstration
To express our indignation

And urge the resignation
Of the whole Association
For its snide insinuation
It's a baseless fabrication . . .
Hush, child, hush.

Must you have a fever? Must you run a rash?
Infant filibusterer, your mama's got to dash.

* * *

The Opposition's foxy
Congealed in orthodoxy
But baby's chicken-poxy
And I don't have a proxy.

—May 24, 1962

Congratulations

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A Letter

From Mrs. Roosevelt
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 30, 1937

My dear Mr. Sowell:

I am very much interested in the copies of the Greenbelt Co-operator which you are sending me, but I think I am more interested in the fact that you have formed a journalistic club and will carry this venture through on a cooperative, voluntary basis.

I hope that the paper will prove a valuable instrument for the dissemination of news and that it will have the interest of the people of Greenbelt.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Eleanor Roosevelt

POISON IVY CLUB

This week's candidates for the Poison Ivy Club are the people who insist on writing long-winded letters to the editor and then kick when reminded that the limit is 250 words.

—November 16, 1939

STATED PUBLICLY

I wish to state publicly that the views expressed by my husband in his column, particularly the one about the Center School PTA, are not shared by me.

—Vivian Greenbaum
October 24, 1957

It is gratifying to hear that a large store such as Klein's will be located at Beltway Plaza. Now has any provision been made for added roads to take care of the traffic that will be generated? One has only to see the bad situation at Wheaton Plaza, and at P. G. Plaza, both of which are served by two access roads. But judging from past performances, nothing will be done until the whole city council gets caught, en toto, in a traffic jam on Greenbelt Road.

—July 19, 1962

"Credit where credit is due, please! Lately, the News Review has been giving me too much credit and others not enough. . . Two weeks ago, in an Our Neighbors item about the birth of my son, I was named (with a slight mis-spelling), my son and my daughters were named, but—my wife, Rose, who had quite a bit to do with the whole thing, was not mentioned."

(1963)

* * *

"Greenbelt is not just a plain, ordinary town. In another hundred years it will be a national monument, and losing it to four-lane highways created by green-back-centered, fast buck zoning will be a loss to many more people than the few of us who presently live here. If we are to keep Greenbelt we have to fight for it, loudly, clearly, and aggressively now, and later at the polls."

(1965)

By the time I finished reading the letters-to-the-editor page last week, I was laughing hysterically. I then read it to my husband who couldn't believe his ears. Different ideas and opinions are what help to make our lives and country interesting, but honestly the letters-to-the-editor page is beginning to read like a comedy revue, with the same characters week-in and week-out. . . .

—May 25, 1978

Pro Vox Pop

Except for the inevitable limitations of space and deadline, the pages of this paper are open at all times to the public for its comment and criticism. News stories tell you what happened; editorials tell you what we think about the news; letters to the editor tell us—and the community—what YOU think about both.

We believe in letters to the editor. We believe they nullify rumor and promote reason. We salute the citizens who, in the past tense weeks especially, have taken the trouble to make known their opinions so that others may share and consider them.

—May 8, 1952

One of the things many of my friends in Greenbelt hold against me, as does the gentleman who thinks I am a "rabble rouser," is that I do not believe in the sanctity of the coop (GHI). It does not take the place of God for me. . . .

—December 20, 1979

When reporting on Greenbelt City Council deliberations in the May 31, 1984 issue of the Greenbelt News Review, reference was made on page 4 to remarks of "councilman Toni Bram". Although council member Antoinette M. Bram is only in her first term of office and, perhaps, the Greenbelt News Review staff is not yet used to reporting on her activities, I find this reference, "councilman", insensitive and offensive.

I am married to a councilwoman, not a "councilman".

Ralph A. Bram

Editor's Note: Our face is red.

While our reporter did use the word "councilwoman" in her story, our proofreaders did not notice that the linotype operator had set the word "councilman." Our apologies to Greenbelt's newest member of council, Antoinette M. (Toni) Bram.

June 7, 1984

This year is commemorative in many ways. For those of us who use Greenbelt Lake Park, a.k.a. Buddy Attick Park, it's been 50 years of either nonexistent or minimal toilet facilities. As a well attended park, especially in summer, this not only speaks poorly for Greenbelt city services, but is a source of real annoyance and derision as well. We treat our residents and our many visitors to a lovely lake park recreation area, but when they ask to use the john, we send them to the woods. . . .

—May 28, 1987



This will take care of the guy who simply MUST have the car windows open!

Happy Anniversary News Review



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Springhill Lake Apartments

Congratulates

The Greenbelt News Review

On 50 Years of Excellence



Three long-time residents, News Review staffers past and present, completed books in 1987. At left is Virginia Beauchamp, editor of A Private War: Letters and Diaries of Madge Preston, 1862-1867, published by Rutgers University Press. In the center is Bernice Kastner, author of Space Mathematics, a Resource for Teachers, distributed by NASA. Dorothy Sucher, author of Dead Men Don't Give Seminars, rounds out the group. Sucher's book will be published by St. Martin's Press in the spring of 1988.

— Dec. 6, 1984



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We Get Bouquets . . .

"I am writing to express my appreciation for the splendid work you and your *News Review* staff are doing.

"I have noticed that you endeavor to be fair in reporting both sides of controversial issues that arise in Greenbelt from time to time.

"You are to be congratulated on continuing your publication every week since November, 1937 even though you have experienced financial difficulty. We appreciate the fact that the *News Review* is delivered free to every home in Greenbelt." (1960)

Isn't it nice to know you're officially middle aged? Seriously, completing your 41st year of continuous publication is a significant milestone and one you truly can be proud of.

As a longtime reader of the *News Review*, I also can say your years of publication have been years of invaluable service to the Greenbelt community. Like the city itself, you have grown up since your beginnings as a mimeographed newsletter in 1937.

The future should hold nothing but good things for a publication with such a worthy past. Gladys Noon Spellman, Member of Congress
—December 7, 1978

Words of Praise . . .

In January 1963, a minority group on the Greenbelt Homes Inc. board of directors proposed that Greenbelt Development Corporation (a wholly owned subsidiary of GHI) charge the Greenbelt News Review a monthly rent of \$50 for unused basement space it was making available to the newspaper at the Parkway apartments. Up to that time, the corporation had made the space available rent-free as a public service, with the newspaper reimbursing GDC for out-of-pocket expenses such as electricity (\$3 a month). The issue was settled at the annual membership meeting of May 1963 when the GHI members voted (with less than 10 nays out of a possible 390 votes) to continue the policy of providing rent-free quarters to the *News Review*. As distressing as this was to the *News Review* volunteer staff, which considered the move an attempt to harass and intimidate the newspaper and a threat to its editorial independence, a source of comfort was the flood of letters to the editor supporting the newspaper. Following are a few choice excerpts:

"Many citizens don't realize that a majority of people who work on the *News Review* have a strong feeling of pride in the newspaper and in what it stands for . . . It means that most of the staff believe that the *News Review* stands for something special in the newspaper world, and that they identify themselves with its purposes and accomplishments I know many of these people personally, and we do very little in helping them carry out their individually assigned tasks.

(1963)

"Could it be that just because the *News Review* reports the news as its reporters see it that there is such a hullabaloo?"

(1963)

"When we moved here two and one-half years ago our first impression of the vitality of Greenbelt was gained from reading the *News Review* . . . If GDC wishes to "tax" the *News Review* out of existence by imposing rent on a non-profit organization for space that is not suitable for commercial or residential use, we feel that it would be making an error which all of us would soon regret."

(1963)

"No suburban community can support a real money making newspaper . . . But operated as a cooperative, we have a vital paper, open to anyone who can write and is willing to spend some time helping to produce the paper . . . And I believe our community is much the better because of it."

(1963)

"For a quarter-century the newspaper has been the voice of the people of this town . . . The volunteer working force has almost miraculously renewed itself through the generations. During that time, perhaps more than any other single voice, the newspaper has been a unifying agency in the town, causing residents to feel and act as citizens . . . This sense of identification

is not to be confused with conformity or unanimity of opinion. In fact the paper has, in its variations of editorial policy, probably caused citizen action through heated dispute more often than through gentle persuasion. Nevertheless this has kept Greenbelt from becoming just another suburban sprawl of sleeping quarters without character or community spirit."

(1963)

"I want to thank the *News Review* for providing a forum from which I could hold forth. I well know, and I am sure that all of Greenbelt likewise recognizes the fact that all the members of the *News Review* staff work long hours with no thought of personal reward in order that the paper is available for all of us. For that I thank all of you."

(1963)

"My criticism of the *News Review* is that the paper is too, too polite in its endurance of jackassery and misrepresentation."

(1963)

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arranged

- Appetizers •Pizza
- Chicken •Salads
- Dessert •Seafood
- Pasta •Veal

577-0070

This letter is addressed to the new and not so new citizens of Greenbelt who enjoy receiving a free copy of the *News Review* delivered to your door each Thursday night. I think this delightful informative publication is one of the ways Greenbelt has maintained its cohesiveness throughout the years. Many former Greenbelters from as far away as Europe still subscribe to the *News Review* to keep posted on things at home. For some senior citizens, I have been told, this is the only contact with the outside world for weeks at a time.

The *News Review* is a non-profit, volunteer paper; the carriers receive very little monetary compensation — an average of ¼ of a cent per paper. Since November, when I took over the circulation, it has managed to rain or snow almost every Thursday night. Many of our carriers have had the flu and substitutes have been great — carrying 200 paper over strange routes — in the dark; some even carried double routes.

Please remember when you see a cold, wet and tired carrier in your yard on Thursday night some of it may have rubbed off on your paper. But, like the carrier, it will dry and look a little less tired in half an hour.

1974

By brother . . . was a feature writer on the *Chicago Daily News* for 15 years and likes newspapers. Ever since I first discovered what a remarkable little paper our *News Review* is, I have saved copies for him, sending him two or three months' papers in a bundle. I received a Valentine from him and his wife in which he wrote:

"Happy Valentine's Day to Mayor Pilski, Charlie Schwan, Roy Breashears, Mrs. Hutzler, Chairman Smith, Eunice Cozon, Thomas X. (White), Kathy Keene, Al Skolnik, and all the other wonderful people that move through the pages of the *Greenbelt News Review* like characters from a Dickens novel."

1975

Fair Weather Brings Radar

Police Chief O'Brien told the *News Review* that with the onset of nice weather there will be an increase in the number of State and County radar units in the area. Time and location of their use will not be announced.

—March 5, 1964

...And We Get Brick Bats

Since the Cooperator has been in existence we have put out some pretty lousy issues but last week's issue really takes the cake. It stunk." (From a former staff member. 1940)

"After reading your minutely detailed and unfortunately inaccurate report of a routine meeting of the board of directors of the Greenbelt Health Association and after receiving several telephone calls from members of the association in regard thereto, we feel it necessary to bring to the attention of your readers, as well as the editor of the Cooperator, a true report of at least one of the gross inaccuracies of your account. . . ." (1944)

"Your newspaper has not been objective in its reporting of the news and its editorial policy has been lopsided . . . It has been quite apparent to this observer for years that your newspaper in its alleged news coverage singles out for favorable mention the actions of individuals whose cause you endorse."

(1963)

"I have been a reader of the *Greenbelt News Review* for the last two years. During this time I have become accustomed to reading slightly slanted news and strongly partisan editorials . . . I strongly object to the *News Review's* double standard in reporting and editorializing!"

(1963)

"I am moved to take you to task gently (for, I judge, you are a lady) for some apparent sloppiness in the operation of your paper.

"Most disturbing is the fact that the weekly issues are dated Thursday but never arrive at my door until Saturday . . . Assuming you intended to get the paper to me by January 28, why do you carry a meeting notice in that issue for Monday, January 25? . . .

"Your copy editing is sloppy too. There is no "partially frozen ice" in this world. It is the lake, dear lady, that was partially frozen . . .

"I think your paper has a definite valued place in the community. But just because the advertiser pays and not the subscriber—don't get too complacent. If I stop reading, the advertiser will stop paying."

MBH

"Editor's Note: A partially frozen smile played over our lips

as we read MBH's letter . . . Incidentally, the last person who wrote a letter along MBH's lines ended up as the *News Review* Editor."

(1965)

I have read and re-read your "correction" of the *News Review's* original article on the performance of the Parkdale Symphonic Band in both the County and the State Instrumental Music Festivals. I can only conclude that the "correction" is more inaccurate or, at best, incomplete than the original story. . . .

1973

If you are going to use my name in an article, particularly in a provocative way, quote me correctly. . . .

(1985)

It was very interesting to read in your account of the city council meeting that the Greenbriar issue can be likened to "Watergate". That may be truer than you realize.

It is unfortunate that the record of the *News Review* can not compare to the vigorous reporting of the *Washington Post*. I am sure that the several citizens who were in attendance at that meeting were probably wondering if they really were there after reading the doctored account of your reporter . . .

Of course, we couldn't expect the *News Review* to report as I am in this letter, but it would be nice to read accounts that approach what actually happened, rather than the fairy tales we are treated to by your reporters. . . .

—June 21, 1973

"Don't Fence Me In!"

by Al Skolnik

Concerned about reports that adventurous young children were climbing under and over the newly-erected fences along the Washington-Baltimore Freeway. David Kane, GVHC's maintenance superintendent, undertook to discover the cause of the attraction.

"Well," said one small boy, "We like to watch the cars go by." Another chimed in "My mother often goes with us to sit on the guard rails and wave at the passing cars."

Exasperated, Dave asked, "What in the world do you think the fence was put up for?"

"Why," came the prompt reply. "We thought it was to keep people out of Greenbelt!"

—April 28, 1955

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt

Democratic Club

Salutes

The Greenbelt News Review

on

Fifty Years of Community Service

The Club meets on the third Friday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Greenbriar

Community Center, Newcomers welcome.



The development of Greenbelt has always been a major issue in the city. The next two pages contain editorials and responses concerning that development.

Where Is Greenbelt Going?

As more and more of the plans for the vacant land in Greenbelt come off the drawing boards, it appears obvious to us that our concept of Greenbelt as a planned community differs widely from that of the developers.

Our concept, and one that we believe is shared by the majority of Greenbelt's citizens and officials, visualizes the future Greenbelt as a balanced community. There would be some apartment dwellings, some commercial zoning, some low-cost housing, some medium priced individual and duplex housing, and some high quality free-standing homes.

Such a balance would provide the broad tax base needed to finance desirable city services. At the same time it would retain the present character of Greenbelt as a city primarily of homeowners who have a deep and abiding interest in the development of Greenbelt and its services.

Already this balance has been thrown out of kilter by the development of Springhill Lake Apartments, which may eventually house more people than presently live in Greenbelt. It is obvious that any further rental apartment and commercial zoning will further unbalance the community.

Yet the developers keep pushing their plans for high rise and rental apartments. If these plans are adopted without change, about 80 percent of Greenbelt's eventual population will be living in rental dwellings, compared with 25 percent today.

The developers boast that this will make Greenbelt the most densely populated area in Prince Georges county . . . that such development will bring Greenbelt out of its isolation and provide its citizens with many new community services . . . that such development, as compared with that of individually-owned homes, will produce less of a burden on the city tax rate.

Has anyone asked whether such a metropolis is what Greenbelt residents want? Has anyone asked whether Greenbelt residents are so desirous of tax relief they are ready to turn the rest of Greenbelt into a community like Langley Park, consisting primarily of commercial strips and rental apartments? Has anyone asked Greenbelt residents whether they are ready to accept the consequences of such development — traffic congestion, crowded schools, elimination of green spaces?

We think the developers would be well-advised to consult once again the Community Goals adopted by the city council on November 25, 1963. This document, prepared by the Advisory Planning Board as a guide for the future development of the city calls for the preservation of Greenbelt as a residential community and for development to the maximum of individually-owned homes or apartments.

It can safely be predicted that failure to heed these objectives will find the developers faced with constant, endless opposition and controversy along every step of the way.

—March, 1964

Students React to News Review Editorial; Pick Up Pens to Debate Greenbelt's Future

by Elaine Skolnik

Little did the News Review realize that its March 5 editorial "Where Is Greenbelt Going?" would cause such a stir in Mr. Peter Whittaker's 9-C Social Studies class at Greenbelt Junior High. The students, in the midst of a unit on metropolitan affairs, had been studying planning, zoning and transportation in our local area. Therefore, it took little for the editorial and a letter by Sidney Kastner, which frowned upon the development of Greenbelt as a future metropolis composed of 80% rental units, to stimulate a lively discussion.

In fact, the reaction was so intense that many students heard the familiar Greenbelt "call to arms" and, with their trusty pens, commented on the editorial in the form of letters to the editor. Through the courtesy of Mr. Whittaker, these comments were made available for quotation.

In keeping with the Greenbelt predilection for green areas, the most common reaction was against apartment construction. According to Mr. Whittaker, at

least two-thirds of the letters generally supported the position of the editorial. Not to be ignored, however, was a strong minority who took the position that apartment development was most desirable.

Majority Opinion

The major concern of those who opposed apartment construction was with the problems which would be created as a result of this type of development. Adrienne Cornett put it this way. "The builders of this new concept of Greenbelt are rushing headlong into their glorious dreams of Greenbelt as a metropolis, not taking into account the nightmares they may create for its future residents. Greenbelt the metropolis! I can see it now with its people only digits in a population count instead of the individuals that make up a town. With these dreams come overcrowded schools and increased crime rate and the destruction of the green that so many Greenbelters consider the trademark of their town."

Concurring with this view was John Esaias who commented, "Right now, Greenbelt has many

problems with its present population. Imagine what the problems will be if there are 25,000 more people in this town."

In fact, one student, Reba Schwimer, termed Greenbelt a future "Hazardbelt".

The fear that increased apartment development would destroy the planned-community concept of Greenbelt was revealed in many of the letters Cindy Fritz wrote. "For years classes in junior and senior high, as well as college, have studied Greenbelt as a model community—a planned community. One of the basic facts that has distinguished Greenbelt from other communities is that much of the open space—the 'green', has been retained for recreation and for general beauty. Today far too many of these open spaces, this 'green', is being zoned for use as apartment and commercial sites. Already, with the presence of Springhill Lake, Boxwood and Charlestowne, the wooded land surrounding the American Legion, the Greenbelt water tower and the Junior High are threatened."

—April 2, 1964

CONGRATULATIONS ON 50 YEARS!

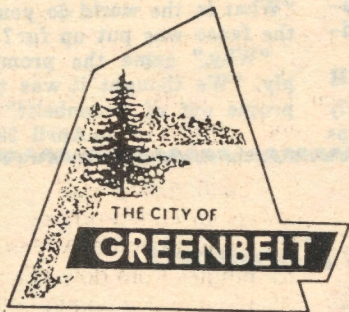
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Flight from the Facts

As the day of decision on the purchase of Greenbelt approaches, several facts are taking shape through the rather hysterical atmosphere which has characterized the public reaction.

For one thing, we have grown soft. Having lived for so long in a planned community, protected more fully than we have realized from housing standards outside our little "Eden", we have been trying to stall off our inevitable fate. But we cannot evade the fact that the tenor of the times has shifted in the 15 years since the start of the experiment we have been privileged to share; and that we, like everyone else in the world, must perforce adapt to the change.

We retain the physical advantages of a community whose original homes, lawns, playgrounds, playing fields, and landscaping were the best the most important talents of the Roosevelt administration could devise. We retain the swimming pool. We retain the lake and its recreational area, even now being improved by local organizations working with the state. We can look forward to the benefits of the proposed golf course, the continued development of the Department of Interior land, the improvement of the lake, the completion of the Baltimore highway.

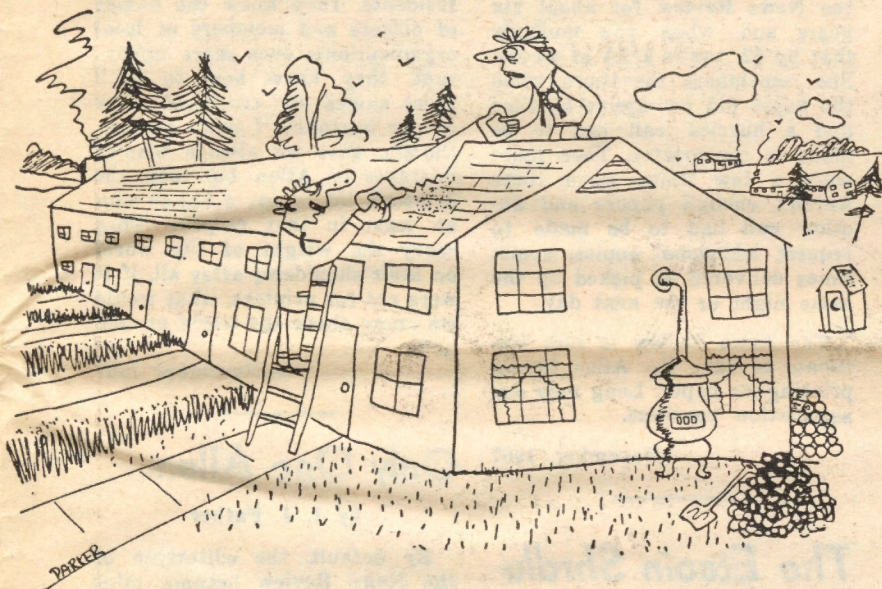
We retain, whether we realize it or not, a cooperative way of life. Very few residents have escaped getting involved in some kind of cooperative in Greenbelt, from nursery school to newspaper. It seems fitting that we continue in that spirit, to agree on our aim and work together towards its achievement.

Those residents who wish to buy their homes in Greenbelt, and sincerely distrust the alternatives, can be rightly indignant at this evasion of reality on the part of wishful thinkers.

We believe that all residents who want to buy should be guaranteed their right to buy mutually, without interference from those who do not want to buy—and who must still adjust, like it or no, to the changes confronting them.

— April 3, 1952

"I told them I wanted no part of Co-op housing"



The Real Greenbelt Story

At last the real Greenbelt story is being heard by the outside world. That is the story of a special kind of spirit drawing together the people of this town. The word *cooperate* heard so often here flows from the volunteerism that has been a way of life since the town began.

Yet that's the story which outside reporters have always missed.

From time to time they come to check up on what has happened to the greenbelt concept. They look for the broad belt of forestland—the stretch of green—that was supposed to protect the inner city against the encroachments of urban blight. What they see instead are divided highways crisscrossing our town, separating neighborhoods one from another. Or they see the shabby commercial center in the original part of town—or the acres of highrise commercial buildings, shopping malls, and apartment complexes in the newer sections, where that forestland was supposed to be. What they conclude is that "The Dream Is Dead."

We know better. Over the years we have repeatedly fought to preserve that green. We have used pressure and legal means to control growth within the city and outside our boundaries. Often we have lost. But we have won a few, too. The brilliant green canopy which blankets the heart of the city with its still almost rural feeling is unique in the Washington suburbs. Even in the new parts of town, our city officials have wrung some concessions out of developers for parkland, green space, buffering and landscaping. Plans to bring new vitality to the old commercial center are pending.

But all of the changes in the physical design are not the real Greenbelt. Greenbelt's story resides in the people and what they do—how they pull together to deal with problems and to feel the pleasures that sharing brings.

Two recent decisions by organizations outside our town tell us that the real Greenbelt story has now been heard. One was the decision by the Maryland Humanities Council to fund with a substantial grant a forthcoming conference on planned communities—an event to be held here during our 50th anniversary year. The other was our choice as a finalist in the All-America Cities contest—a national award celebrating citizen action. Neither honor would have come to us had it not been for our city's clear record of cooperative experience—the know-how to get things done by working together.

That has always been in this city's style. We're glad that story is now being heard.

— November 7, 1985

Greenbelt-A Future Metropolis

... The real surprise of the evening, however, had little to do with a new library site. This was Councilman Clifford Simonson's figures on the potential growth of the city's population. He reported that when the new development already planned is completed (with the time depending on the occupancy rate), the city would then have about 35,000 residents. This could come in five years. If zoning applications now pending, especially for apartments, are approved, the population could easily go to 65,000—all this because Greenbelt is becoming the hub of major highways and expressways in the area. No one really dreams—or should we say nightmares—that this 65,000 figure will be reached or even approached. Nevertheless, the possibility that Greenbelt might someday be a huge metropolis cannot be lightly dismissed. . . .

Gaining Scarce Green Space Demands 'For' Vote on Bonds

A few years ago, Greenbelt was a small town beautifully surrounded by woodlands. Now, only scattered oases of green remain to offer respite from our urban clutter. Many of these spots are privately owned and ripe for clearing and construction. If some of these forested areas are not acquired soon with public money for public use, the pleasure they give us will be lost forever.

This is why passing the proposed municipal bond issue during the referendum next Tuesday is so urgent a matter for all of us. While other projects to be carried out with money from the bond sales have compelling claims of their own, at least some of those projects could conceivably be accomplished in later years. But loss now of the last remaining chances to buy green space for park land will be an irretrievable loss felt both by ourselves and the generations that follow us here.

The city's wish list for use of the bond proceeds reflects the desires of the citizens. Among goals on the list, in addition to the acquisition of parkland, are improvement of existing parks; construction of a new, more efficient police station; repair and improvement of the old swimming pool and construction of an indoor swimming facility; and additions to the Youth Center and the public works building. All are worthy projects made necessary either by increased population of the city, with its needs for services, or by the longtime wear and tear of constant use.

A bond issue will not be without cost, for city property taxes will have to be used to repay the buyers of the bonds. But city officials have proved through careful management of funds from the last bond issue that they know how to increase such monies with matching federal, state and county grants. As citizens we received more than any of us could have imagined. Passing the new referendum looks like the best investment any of us could make this year for our selves and for our children.

The *News Review* supports the bond issue. We urge you to vote "For" in the special city election on May 14.

—May 9, 1985

Sex and the Voting Booth

Voters in the city council election on Tuesday will find that the official ballot in the voting booths directs them to vote for five "councilmen." It belatedly dawned on the incumbent city councilmen Monday night that this is not right: One of the candidates seeking to unseat one of them is not a man.

After prolonged discussion, council agreed that (1) it is too late now to reprint the ballots; (2) the city's board of Elections is the only body with authority to make the necessary wording changes during the next two years; and (3) maybe the *News Review* could help enlighten the voters before election day.

Here are some truly enlightening thoughts compiled by the assorted Munchkins and Bunny Rabbits of the *News Review* staff:

—"What levers consenting voters choose to push in the privacy of their own voting booths is between them and their consciences, and is not a matter for governmental mandate."

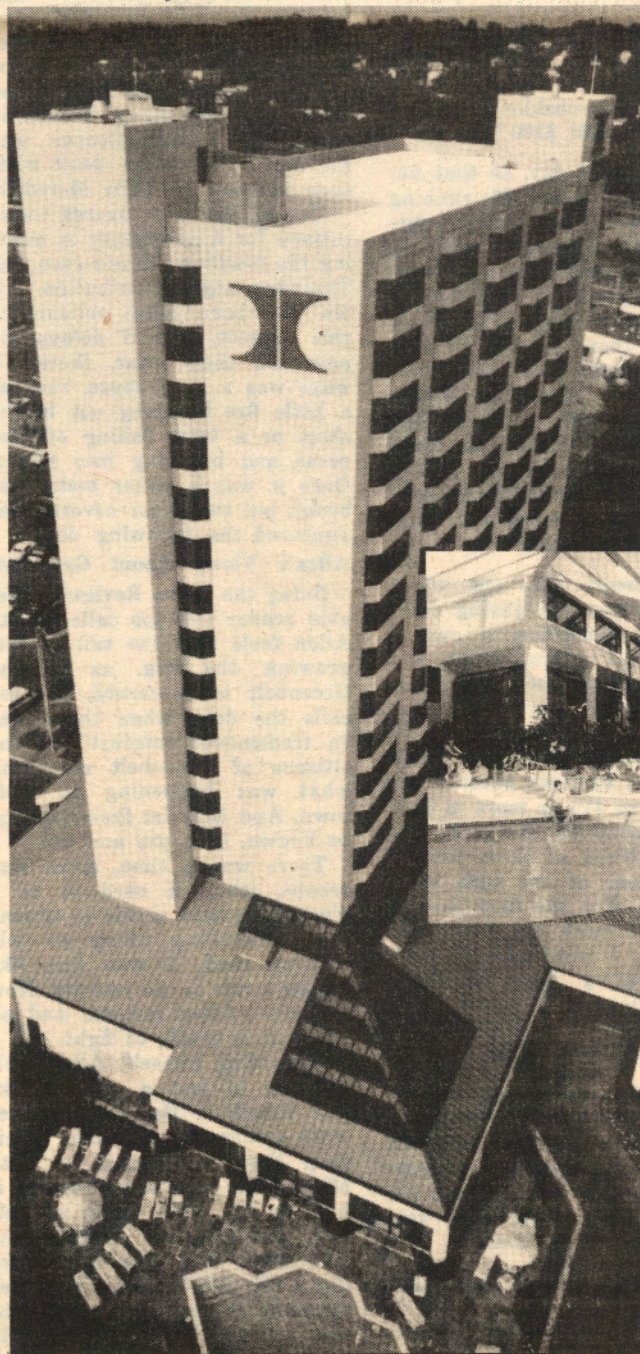
—"Voters should by all means be discriminating in their choices, but not discriminating as to gender."

—"Sex does not belong in the voting booth."

—"May the best human beings win!"

(P.S.: Is this really the sort of things you guys on council wanted from us?)

—September 15, 1983



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OUR EXCELLENCE SHOWS.

My Point of View . . . by Bill Cornett

There were times, when both the city of Greenbelt and I were considerably younger, when I thought there would always be things on which I could count. There would always be hot summer days, and on those days the swimming pool would be filled with squealing, splashing kids. I used to be one of those kids, so I know all about it.

After our skin was red from too many belly flops off the low dive, our faces were blue from underwater breath-holding contests, and our eyes burned from the chlorine, we had an important duty to perform, a duty still held sacred by children in Greenbelt to this day. We were going to go to the Ben Franklin five and dime store and spend the extra ten cents each of us had squirreled away for candy. . . .

Life is never sweeter than when you are ten years old, out of the pool on a hot summer day, and eating yourself halfway to diabetes on candy from Ben Franklin.

Ben Franklin would never change. . . . (I'll swear they still have stuff left over from 1963 on the back shelf). . . .

But things do change. . . . But this is one change that I might not be able to take: The Ben Franklin Five and Dime is closing! . . .

While I was growing up, Benjie's (as we used to call it) had more nifty toys for under a dollar. . . . In the spring, it was squirt guns to take to school, and balloons for massive water fights.

The people at the counter were nice, too. If you only brought 25 cents in to buy something that cost a quarter, and forgot

to bring in the extra penny for tax, you could bring it by later (by now, with interest, I probably owe them a couple bucks for the times I forgot to repay them).

The store is still a different sort of place from any other retail establishment in the area. Dried flowers, yarn, sewing stuff, and other things of a feminine nature on the right side of the store, stationery, toys, hardware and housewares on the left. You could walk in right now and get an ironing board and a washer for your faucet, notebook paper, sunglasses, and still end up paying a fair price, without having to cover six acres of store to find it all.

I know, I can always zip over to Dart Drug and feel sort of like a mouse caught in a maze of giant merchandise canyons while I search through alphabetically labeled aisles for something that I could have found in ten seconds at good ole' Benjie's. Then, while I'm fighting my way out of the parking lot and across the Parkway, I can think of a store I used to be able to walk to, owned by somebody my family knew, where I could get stuff I wanted with a lot less hassle. Ah, progress!

—January 29, 1987

Oh! The Weight of it All!

by Alexander E. Barnes

Recently this newspaper ran a story which began "Veteran long distance runner, Alexander Barnes . . ." which has caused me to be the victim of comments on my age which border on slander. Comments about entering middle age were the kinder ones. . . .

I was spared in some measure by the fact that this story of great interest was buried in the middle of the newspaper. However, most experienced readers of the News Review skip the first page anyway, knowing that that is where the newspaper puts its most boring material. GHI and City Council meetings and the like.

In addition there were those who noticed that I was getting slower. Perhaps, they said most cruelly of all, it was because I was carrying more weight. Let me obliterate that canard.

The reason I am slower than the others is because I have refused to get a second-mortgage on the house in order to pay for the new equipment being worn by the modern (and sometimes younger) runners. Let me describe to you the tremendous handicap I face every time I get out to compete against others who are restrained by no spending limit. I do tend to spend substantially on shoes. On the day of the race I was wearing a pair for which I was paid \$45, back when the dollar was worth something. These are generally available for \$25 except that I have to buy an extra-wide size. What kind of chance do I have against those trodding along in

ultralight, soft-cushion shoes for which they paid \$100?

It was a cool day, so that underneath my Sears \$5 running shorts I wore my trusty long-johns which I brought with me when I migrated from New England a couple of decades ago. Is it any wonder that I would be passed by those wearing Dolphin Running Shorts (\$15) over their Moss Brown Running Tights (\$25) ". . . with a non-binding body-hugging Lycra/Nylon blend . . ." I realize I may look a little funny in my old long-johns, but what about those guys running around in panty-hose?

My tee-shirt was one which I had received for having completed the marathon in one of the previous years, which had the catchy phrase "Washington's Birthday Marathon". Humor is a serious requirement for the marathoner. So, I was clearly put down by those passing who had invested \$10 or more in such as "Marathoners Keep It Up Longer". Many of these weren't seen because of the tops worn over them. For the first part of the race I wore my Sears \$15 sweatshirt. I watched with envy those wearing their Gore-Tex Unisex (honest, I didn't make that up) Jackets with their Egyptian cotton spun in for \$170.

My gloves are those made for gardening and sold by Mr. Harry for less than \$2. For only ten times as much I could have gotten exactly the same gloves except that they would have said "Bill Rodgers" on them.

Well, we all have to make sacrifices.

—March 28, 1985

Allen the Printer

A Tribute

His full name is Herbert A. Allen. But to the generation of editors who have struggled every week to get out the News Review, he was just Allen the printer (and this included his wife and family.) No disrespect was intended; it was simply that Allen has been an institution as far as the News Review was concerned. Always helpful in meeting our deadlines, sympathetic to the News Review's community causes, and, most important, patient in our times of financial straits, Allen the Printer has always held our appreciation. The following stories, by former and present staff members, are a tribute to this warm relationship.

A Printer by Tradition

by Rita Fisher

Herbert A. Allen—"Allen the Printer"—has been in the printing business since he was 13 years old. As owner of the Allen Printing Company, he has been responsible for printing the Greenbelt News Review (formerly known as the Cooperator) for at least twenty of its thirty years of publication.

His first contact with the News Review occurred when the paper decided to change from a mimeographed copy to regularly printed issues, produced in the printshop of the Prince Georges Post. Allen was employed by the Post at that time, and he personally supervised the first printed issue.

By the time the Post, having grown to an 8-page paper, announced that it could no longer handle the job for the News Review, Allen was ready to take over. He had just started his own printing company and was recommended by his own linotype operator, Sis Harvey from Glenn Dale, who had many friends in Greenbelt. Donald Cooper was the first editor Allen dealt with, soon followed by Sally Meredith.

One of the most sacred institutions for a newspaper is meeting the deadline—in our case, the Thursday night distribution. Allen has been quite reliable in this respect, and if delays did now and then occur, there always was a good cause, such as a little fire breaking out in the shop, or a form falling off the press and breaking into pieces. Once it was a water main that broke, but the paper nevertheless appeared the following day.

Allen's Views About Greenbelt

Being the News Review's most avid reader (his job calls for it) Allen feels that the tail is outgrowing the dog, as far as Greenbelt is concerned. He recalls the days when there was "a tremendous interest" by the citizens of Greenbelt regarding what was happening to their town. And they let their feelings be known, both pro and con.

There was a time, Allen also recalls, when it used to be a pleasure to take a ride to Greenbelt. Travelling along an old country road, it was just like taking a ride to the country. Now it's gone, Allen reflects, and all you find is traffic to fight.

Regarding himself, Allen feels that he is just a printer, like Ben Franklin. He would rather work among the machines in his shop than tie himself up with office work. The same feeling is held by his wife, Olive, and his son, Herbert, Jr., "Red" who both work with him. Allen also has a married daughter who used to work in the shop when she was younger. The other Allen in

the family is a son serving with the Armed Forces in Viet Nam.

Allen and his family are very active members of the Hyattsville Seventh Day Adventist Church. Their shop is closed on Saturday in observance of their Sabbath and open on Sundays.

The writer of this story has known Mr. Allen for quite a while herself. Her husband handled the weekly distribution of the News Review for about six years and, when you multiply that by 52, that's a lot of weeks. She remembers the times when the paper did not arrive on time and a hurried call had to be made to the printer. Then there were a few times when there weren't enough papers and another call had to be made to request additional copies, sometimes delivered or picked up the same night or the next day.

The News Review is very fortunate to have the Allen family printing its paper. Long may our association continue.

November, 1967

The Etaoin Shrdlu

Dedicated to Mr. Allen

Behind the walls of printshop halls

It's lurking out of view

A fearsome beast, to say the least—

The Etaoin Shrdlu.

O, printers cringe, with hearts atwinge

When it lets off its roar

Typesetters stumble, as they fumble

and spill type to the floor.

Proofreaders blink, at times they think

They see it sneaking in

Editors cuss, and raise great fuss

At the mark of the Etaoin

I have no cares of lions, bears

Of beasts found in the zoo

But this I fear, don't let it near—

The Etaoin Shrdlu.

David P. Stern

(To the Uninitiated: Etaoin Shrdlu are the "words" formed when the typesetter runs his finger down the first two columns on his keyboard, generally in order to fill the rest of a line in which a mistake has occurred, before retyping it correctly. The line containing Etaoin Shrdlu is then spotted and removed by the proofreader. Usually.)

I Remember Allen

by Harry Zubkoff

. . . It has sometimes been exciting, as when the ancient press breaks down. It has sometimes been educational, as when special editions or unexpected changes require new make-up and layout when the forms are already on the press. It has sometimes been an adventure, as when, on occasion, we have had to search for an old plate in the incredible jumble of backdated material which litters the premises, and found the most interesting treasures in memorabilia. It has always been pleasant.

In the course of time, the whole Allen family became involved with the News Review. Mrs. Allen and their son, "Red," were most intimately involved when I was editor, sweating out each issue just like the rest of us on the staff. If they were not personally affected by Greenbelt's many battles over the years, they were nevertheless infuriated by the same injustices, enraged by the same inequities, appalled or delighted, just as we, by the antics of various public figures on the local scene.

They came to know the community better than most of its residents. They knew the names of officers and members of local organizations; even more important, they knew how to spell those names and corrected many of our mistakes. I must confess, though, that we always blamed mistakes on Allen, but then, the printer's lot is not a happy one, at least in that respect. They carry the weight of the world on their shoulders; after all, if it were not for printers, what would we know about the world around us?

—November 1967

Only One Allen

by I. J. Parker


By default, the editorship of the News Review became mine many years ago. The latest editor had resigned, the staff had dwindled to a handful of diehards, and there was a debt of over \$1000 owed to the printer—Mr. Allen. Debt had always been a constant companion to the News Review, but the size had grown to ridiculous proportions. After a survey of the situation, I spoke to Allen on the phone and told him I could carry on the paper with a one-page edition on a pay-as-you-go basis; and diminish the debt from time to time, if possible.

It would be dramatic here to say that Allen said forget the money and paint him as a hero of sorts, but it would not be true. Allen worked hard at his trade, had a family to support, and had earned the money owed him.

I suppose he had no choice. If the paper died, he might come into the ownership of a few battered typewriters and a pencil sharpener. But we were determined that the paper would "not miss an issue" both literally and figuratively. There followed a year of gradual financial recovery, punctuated by pleas from Allen for sums to "pay my electric bill" at least.

Allen will always be a hero to me, because of his patience and good humor. There was never a dispute or ill-tempered demand. He printed the newspaper, waited for the money, and the newspaper survived. There have been other editors, but only one Allen.

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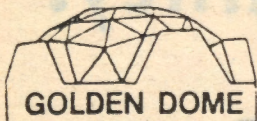
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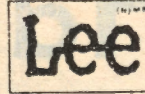
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This overnight change on Greenbelt's Lake Park peninsula startled joggers early Monday morning. According to equally startled city officials, a Beltway Plaza spokesperson refused to comment beyond saying that "What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."

A hastily-convened city council met in special session Monday night, and proclaimed city ownership of the structure based on an obscure legal formulation having to do with possession being ten percent of the law. The council then unanimously agreed (with Councilman White modestly abstaining) to call the new acquisition "The Thomas X. White Lake Park Gazebo." —Photo by Bill Cornett —April Fool, 1982

KeepGreenbeltGreen

The latest to join the "Keep Greenbelt Green" campaign is the local developers' association. Mr. Hi Rice, president, announced this week. "Our association is 100 percent behind this fight to keep Greenbelt green. After all, we developers deal with green stuff all the time and know how important it is. We are experts on the subject."

—April Fool's, 1965

Correction

In the panic generated by the loss of last week's copy, the captions of two pictures were unfortunately transposed. The two laid-back types with the microphone are in fact WLMD Dee-Jay Pat O'Leary and Bill Cornett. They are not to be confused with the distinguished trio consisting of Gov. and Mrs. Hughes and Myrtle Yost. Just making sure you were paying attention, folks. — April 11, 1982

(No Fooling!)

Bethune Parents Unite To Keep School Open

In a hastily called meeting on Wednesday, the Prince Georges County Board of Education heard approximately 50 parents of Mary Bethune Junior High students protest the closing of the school.

"Neighborhood schools are a thing of the past," one parent declared. "We have developed a strong relationship with the school which mere close proximity cannot erase."

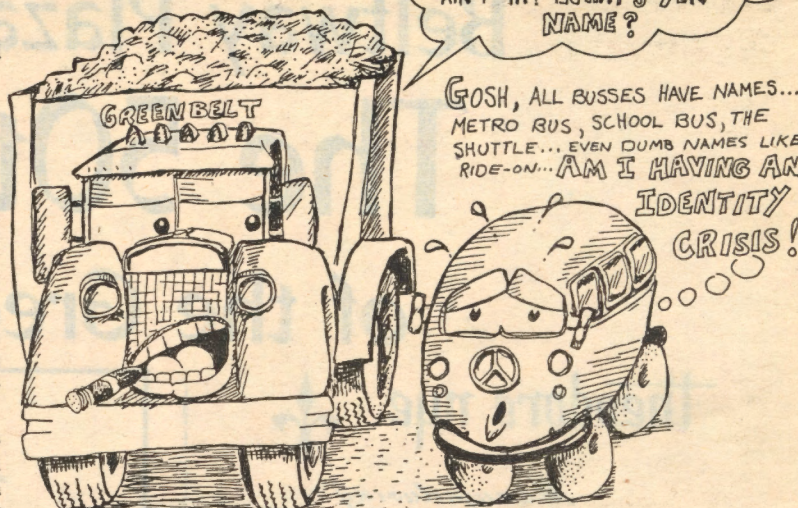
Other parents recounted tales of their joy at the early school day opening, noting that children developed self-reliance in getting themselves up in time to meet the 7 a.m. bus.

"The long bus ride on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway itself is as important as the academic curriculum," another parent commented. "It helps develop social skills."

Others pointed out that the neighborhood the school is located in is slated for urban removal. Its proximity to the District line and the Metro Deanwood station make it ideal for quality office buildings and high tech industry. The Silicon Valley of Prince Georges County could be located there. "What an opportunity that would be for Bethune kids," noted one parent.

The Board stated that it was unaware of development plans for that area of the county and promised to report back to the parents within two weeks after conferring with the staff.

April Fool, 1982



Many Greenbelters felt sorry for the little bus but it was Irene Fulton and Robert Lewis who found the perfect name, "The Greenbelt Connection." They received free rides for a year for their winning entries in the city's "Name the Bus" contest.

Our Reporter

by Bob McGee

So there I'm sitting — aghast — because the regular Greenbelt city council meeting is all over . . . and it's not even 9 p.m. on Monday, November 19. Would you believe? 21 agenda items they zipped through, and I don't have a single note except vote counts. No shouting, no arguing, no political maneuvering . . . and me with a story to write. Sheeesss! Why more happened in the three minutes it took to get to the parking lot than during the whole meeting.

Mayor Dick Pilski stopped me to suggest a banner headline to the story: "Mayor Contributes to

Energy Crisis; Cuts Hot Air Off Early." Then, in the parking lot, this reporter thought he had the makings of a real scoop when he detected, of all people, councilmen Thomas X. White and Charles Schwan driving off together. He stopped the car and asked White if he could write about this unusual teaming up of political opposites. White shouted in reply, "go ahead, the News Review won't print it if it's about me anyway." So, here we are. You'll forgive me if I just give you a summary of the items passed.

I got home so early that I caught my wife . . . watching television.

—November 29, 1972

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We Salute the Greenbelt News
Review for its 50 Years of
Service to the Greenbelt Community!
Happy Anniversary!

Edmonston Highway Will Attract Truckers

Construction has begun on a four-lane dual highway project that will turn most of Edmonston Road and part of Greenbelt Road into a truckers' route, a Washington newspaper revealed last week.

The project, which will cost an estimated \$3.1 million, will convert the northern part of the present Edmonston Road below Greenbelt Road into a dual highway (Kenilworth Avenue).

—August 26, 1954

State Rules Out Edmonston Bridge

The State Roads Commission has notified the city that it will not build a "grade separation" (bridge) at the intersection of Greenbelt Road and the proposed relocated and widened Edmonston Road. The commission, however, proposes to construct a "high grade channelization" at the crossing with signals to control traffic.

The city council instructed city manager Charles McDonald last Monday to consult with the county commissioners and urge them to press for a bridge. Edmonston Road relocation and widening is within this year's state roads program.

—September 27, 1956

Kenilworth Road Open: Watch Stop Signs

Kenilworth Avenue between Good Luck Road and the Greenbelt junior high school is now open for traffic. At present there are stop signs on Kenilworth Avenue where it intersects Greenbelt Road, but none on Greenbelt Road at the intersection. It is planned soon to make the intersection a four-way stop. Eventually there will be a traffic light at this intersection.

The newly opened road is under the jurisdiction of city, county and state police.

—December 19, 1957

Fatality on New Road Mars Traffic Record

A 68-year-old Glenn Dale resident, Bert Shaffner, died of injuries following a collision between his car and a truck belonging to the County Board of Education. The accident occurred last Thursday morning at the intersection of Greenbelt Road and the newly opened Kenilworth Avenue extension.

According to city manager Charles McDonald, it is the first traffic fatality within the Greenbelt city limits in eight years and the first caused by a collision in 20 years. McDonald warned that planned communities (like Greenbelt) are always in danger when new superhighways come close, and that citizens must exercise greater caution when on or near the new roads.

The intersection was the subject of serious comment by the city council during the public hearing on the budget the evening before the accident, when it was disclosed that stop signs were placed for Kenilworth Avenue traffic, making Greenbelt Road the "through" street. Councilman urged the manager to request four-way stop signs from the State Roads Commission. McDonald replied that he had already contacted the Commission regional engineer, and was informed that the matter was being considered.

The day following the fatal accident, 4-way stop signs were erected on the Kenilworth-Greenbelt crossing and the Edmonston-Greenbelt intersection.

—One week later, December 26, 1957

Preliminary results from the questionnaire sent to members of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) under the auspices of the Long-Range Planning Committee were released last week. Fifty-one percent of the persons replying wanted to know who GHI was. 38 percent said they had heard favorable comments about GHI but didn't want to join now, and 11 percent said that the size of their kitchens wouldn't permit any long ranges.

—April Fool, 1965

NEW PLANS BY SHA FOR ROUTE 193/201

The Maryland State Highway announced plans to cancel the reconstruction and regrading of Kenilworth Avenue - Greenbelt Road intersection. Citing a decrease in traffic and a need to save money, the left turn signals will be eliminated, and the cycle lengthened.

April Fool's Issue, 1982

Kenilworth Ave. - Greenbelt Road: Worse than Before?

The opening of the new Kenilworth Avenue underpass on July 25 has created a new set of traffic conditions and problems that area motorists should be aware of. At the suggestion of Mayor

Construction Begins On Detour Ramps At Kenilworth Ave.

In about two years one of Maryland's largest traffic bottlenecks will be gone, according to the State Highway Administration.

—November 22, 1984

Gil Weidenfeld, a public meeting has been tentatively scheduled for September 10 to discuss the intersection. Michael Snyder, District Engineer of the State Highway Administration, will be invited to attend.

August 13, 1987

To the Editor:

Flourescent is the smell of Betty Crocker's line of goods. Fluorescent is an adjective applied to a type of low pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp, using a coating which shifts ultraviolet light into the visible range. And may the twain never meet again, especially on the front page of the Greenbelt News Review.

—April 19, 1979

WE GOOFED

Ms. Blank has correctly pointed out an error in her letter-to-the-editor in the May 4 issue of the News Review. She referred to herself as "an optimist" not an opportunist. The News Review regrets the error.

—May 18, 1978

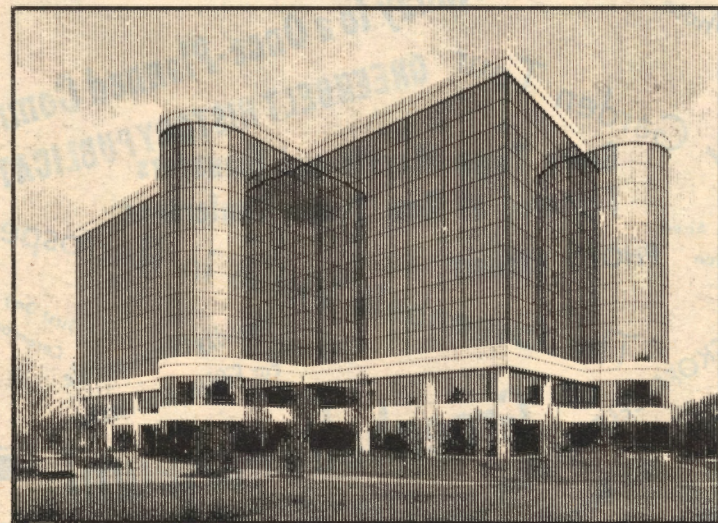
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**Congratulations
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You have Served Us Well!

Say that Again

Notable quotes in brief from the pages of the News Review 1937

"You have undoubtedly seen on the bulletin board a plea for the return of a hat which was taken by mistake at a Citizens' Association meeting. The finder likes the new hat but unfortunately, it does not fit him. He requests that every Greenbelt wife look into her husband's hat for the initials H.W.V.L. It is worth \$1.15 to the family with whom this hat has made a two week rendezvous. The hat in question cost \$3.85. The one taken by mistake cost \$5. Figure it out for yourself."

1938

"Believe it or not . . . a group of some thirty Greenbeltians met one evening last week for a social evening, and they did not elect a group of officers and did not draw up a set of by-laws."

1940

"The government will never sell the Greenbelt property," commented Manager Roy Braden last week, adding that "it would only be leased, on long-term contracts."

1942

"Superstitious . . . Here it is Friday the 13th — and we publish the 13th issue of the Cooperator for the current year. If you want to make something out of it go ahead. For us it is just the same headache as any other issue published any other Friday. We would like to

have about 13 volunteers next week to help us make it a better paper for you." (Editorial).

1945

"Community Manager Goppel tells us that the town collects monthly more money in library fines than it does in police department fines."

1946

"The idea behind Greenbelt existed long before the men who planned our town were born, and will survive regardless of what happens to this particular hunk of Maryland landscape. The writers who derisively call it "Utopia" cannot be aware of how near they come to the truth; Greenbelt's greatness lies not only in the possibilities it has offered to all who have come to live in the community, but also in its actual accomplishments. Out of worn-out tobacco fields and low-income families, Greenbelt has built a town of tomorrow whose advantages are apparent even to its detractors, and a citizenry new in the realization that they have something here worth fighting for together." (Editorial)

1950

"As a rule letters to the editor present the writers' opinion rather than facts. The Cooperator's supply this week bears out this general rule, with one exception. One letter presents a statement of fact." (Editorial)

1957

"This is a typical Greenbelt

story. A few weeks ago the city council relieved Eli Don Bullian of his responsibility as permanent chairman of the Labor Day Festival and turned the whole thing over to the Youth Advisory Board. This was logical since the purpose of the Festival is to raise money toward the new Youth Center. The Board after a long search for a man to run the Festival, came up with a logical choice—Eli Don Bullian."

1959

"There's been a lot of talk around recently about the city council raising its salary from \$500 to \$1,000 a year—or at least advocating such a raise. Some people say they're not worth what we're paying them now, and others say that's exactly what they are worth. Which reminds me of the old story about the enemy who said I wasn't fit to live with pigs, and the friend who stuck up for me and said I was. You wonder who is being more critical."

(The Long View)

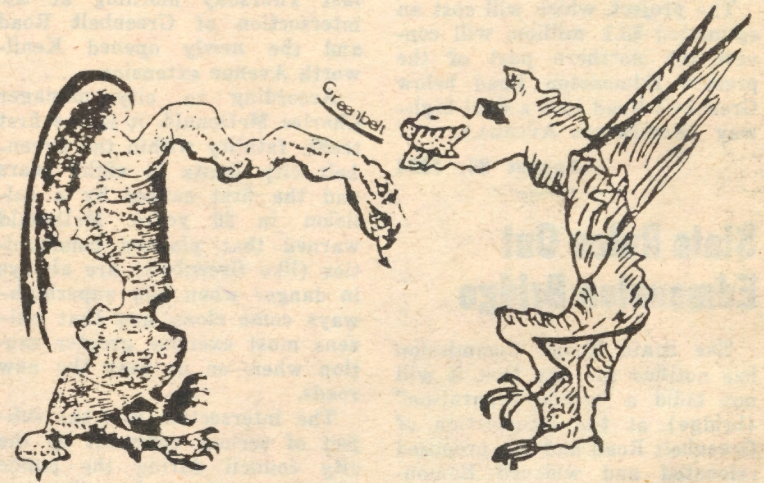
SCOOP!

Mrs. G. R. Oldland of 2-H Gardenway announces the marriage of daughter Judith Ann McLaughlin to William Neff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Neff of 3-D Ridge Road, which took place June 2, 1950 at Forest Glen, Md. Rev. Baker officiated.

—December 7, 1960

A Call to Arms

Next Tuesday marks a good opportunity for Greenbelt citizens to register their protests against the proposed redistricting plan for the specified nine new county council seats. Did we say "register their protests"? *Scream their outrage* would be more appropriate. Rarely have politicians dared to act in a way so nakedly self-serving.



GERRYMANDER OR PEEGEEMANDER? Whatever the name, District IV (Greenbelt-Bowie-Upper Marlboro) is the mirror image of the original salamander-shaped election district devised under Massachusetts' Governor Eldridge Gerry in 1812. The term gerrymander means "the practice of dividing a city, county or state into voting districts in an unfair way."

by Bill Cornett
— October 8, 1981

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GREENBELT 50 Years Ago
History of a New Town In Greenbelt
Greenbelt Writes Its History
'Welcome Home, Pioneers!'



Greenbelt to be Featured
On TV Program on May 1

ADOPT-A-TREE NOW
50th Anniversary Dinner-Dance

Greenbelt on Film, in Print
Special Calendar
To Celebrate 50th

Happy Birthday to a Once-Planned Community
50th Anniversary
A GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION
Group Photo
Home & Garden Tour
Green Town Mayors and Managers
Featured at New Towns Conference

PHOTO EXHIBIT
The Greenbelt Vision in Retrospective
First Day Cancellation Ceremony Set for Friday
Greenbelt Museum!



KICKOFF CELEBRATION
Conference Celebrates Greenbelt's Anniversary
Homecoming
Local Cameras Capture Classic Greenbelt Scenes for Calendar
Historic Photo Exhibit Shows City's Origins
Singers Needed for 50th Anniversary Celebration
Seminar to Feature Greenbelt's History

1987 marked the City of Greenbelt's 50th Anniversary. The year was celebrated with a series of special events beginning in January and ending in December. These headlines tell the story of many community activities sponsored by the 50th Anniversary Committee during 1987.